

Theme of the Day:
Marsh Life and Activities



Day 5 Group Activity

What to Do:

Relate the activity to the story and discuss alligators.

Remind the children that the alligator in the story lived in the boy's house. Where do real alligators live? (In the marsh or swamp)
Ask if anyone has ever been to the marsh / swamp? If so, encourage the child to share his experiences.

Show pictures of marsh scenes. Tell the children that only certain kinds of animals and plants live in the marsh. Ask the children to describe what they see in the pictures. Compare where they live to the marsh. Help them identify the various kinds of animals shown in the pictures.

Set up an area for a marsh.

Designate an area of the room for a marsh. Place bare tree limbs in sand-filled coffee cans. Hang floral moss from the limbs to look like a cypress tree (Real moss should not be used because it might have insects in it). A pier could be constructed from wooden blocks or you may just want to use your balance beam. Small wading pools may be used for sand and water. A box or small tub could be used for a boat.

Suggestions for Additional Props

Marsh animals (puppet or toy) crawfish, alligator, crab, raccoon, possum, skunk, etc.
Fishing poles / fish, Tackle box, buckets
Oars (long blocks or wrapping paper tubes could be used if real oars are not available)
Life jackets, fishing hats
Crab nets, string, piece of plastic meat from kitchen center
Picnic items, spray mist bottles (mosquito spray)

Suggestions for Implementing "A Day in the Marsh"

Demonstrate activities that are available in the center such as crabbing, fishing, boating, or picnicking. Encourage each child to participate in an activity. Call attention to all props that are available.

MATERIALS

- ~~EE~~ Book, *There's an Alligator Under My Bed*
- ~~EE~~ Pictures of marsh scenes
- ~~EE~~ Bare tree limbs
- ~~EE~~ Sand-filled coffee cans
- ~~EE~~ Floral moss
- ~~EE~~ Wooden blocks or balance beam
- ~~EE~~ Small wading pool
- ~~EE~~ Box or small tub