



Curious George and the Dump Truck

by Margret and H.A. Rey

Curious George travels to the park following a mother duck and her ducklings. His curiosity with dump truck in the park has an unexpected ending.

CORE LEARNING AREAS



Language & Literacy



Social Science & Culture



Science & Scientific Thinking



21st Century Skills



Mathematics

READY AT HAND – MATERIALS FROM YOUR CLASSROOM

Paper
Glue
Crayons or markers
Scissors
Old magazines (pictures of ducks)

Various cut-outs of shapes or tangrams
Large butcher block or finger paint paper
Cardboard
Balls of varying sizes



WHOLE GROUP

Questions to Encourage Discussion:

1. Who did Curious George hear out the window?
2. Where were the ducks going?
3. What things did he see in the park?
4. Should Curious George have climbed in the dump truck?
5. How do you think a dump truck works?
6. How did Curious George make an island?



SMALL GROUP

EXPLORE Quacking and Counting

1. Make copies of photos or pictures of ducks. You can use baby ducklings and different types of ducks.
2. Cut them out and glue them to cards. 10 for younger children and 20 for older children
3. Place a number of cards on the table and have the children count the ducks.
4. To add fun, the children can quack as they count.
5. Repeat with a different number of ducks each time. You can also place ducks along a number line.
6. For older children, practice simple addition and subtraction while playing with the cards. Let the children see what other math operations they can do with their quacking ducks.

SMALL GROUP cont'd

CREATE Our Park

1. Children should work in pairs or groups of three to create their own park.
2. Use large white paper, markers/crayons and construction paper and have the children add items to their park (i.e. trees, ponds, rocks, paths, playground, etc.)
3. Each group should agree on a name for their park.
4. Once the parks are completed groups can share with the entire class the "story" of how they created their park.
5. Younger children may have odd shapes and drawings will look like scribbles but they are representational and have meaning to the children.
6. Older children can add a challenge of making their park environmentally friendly (i.e. using recycle trash cans, using recycled water, etc.).

LEARNING CENTERS AND INDEPENDENT PLAY

Blocks and Building - Construction Time in the Block Area

1. Set up with lots of blocks of different shapes and sizes and include buckets and pails to help children build makeshift dump trucks.
2. Add books with pictures of trucks and loads to inspire these young engineers.
3. If you have a sand table place toy dump trucks, earthmovers and other trucks into the sand box so the children can see how they work in picking up, carry and dumping the sand.

Discovery (Science and Nature) - Animals in Shapes

1. Provide different shapes (or tangrams) for children to create animals. For example an egg shape, an oval and two triangles can create a duck.
2. Ask the children if they can each make three animals. Perhaps try making a monkey like Curious George!

Blocks and Building - Tip the Dump Truck

1. Get out several balls in varying sizes and pieces of cardboard to make ramps. Have the children use the cardboard as a ramp and hold it at different angles.
2. What happens to the ball when they roll it down the ramp when the ramp is held high, low, etc.? Does the speed change with different size balls? This is a great activity to do in pairs.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Dump Island Truck Pond Duck Dirt Ducklings Quack Park Waddle

MORE FUN! - EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Creating An Island

Recreate what Curious George did by having the children put sand in shallow dishes of water varying in size. Have them record how much sand is needed to build an island in each "mini pond".

Sort the "Ducks"

Get out a bunch of colored blocks. Have the children sort the yellow ones representing ducks. How many ducks did they find? Mark each child's results on a chart. Did everyone find the same number? Older children can fill out the chart themselves.

Baby Names

Make or use pre-made animal cards. Hold up a card and ask the children what is the animal called when it is young (i.e. duck-duckling, dog – puppy, etc.). Do this for 5 to 10 animals depending on the age of your group. Discuss what each baby animal needs to grow into an adult.