

Like and Different Dinosaurs

comparison

Materials container with a variety of small plastic dinosaurs (or any other creature of interest, such as insects or jungle animals)

What to do

1. Have each child select two dinosaurs from the container.
2. Ask each child to describe one way his dinosaurs are alike, and one way they are different.
3. If a child chooses the same dinosaur, he can choose a different dinosaur.

Related books *Dinosaur Roar* by Paul and Henrietta Stickland
How Do Dinosaurs Count to Ten by Jane Yolen
Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp by Carol Diggory Shields

+ Kristi Larson, Spirit Lake, IA

Make a Counting Book

classification, counting, reasoning

Materials colorful newspaper ads (found in newspaper inserts)
magazines
glue sticks
paper
scissors
markers or crayons

What to do

1. Give each child a piece of white paper, a glue stick, and a pair of scissors. Place several newspaper ads and magazines in the center of the table for the children to browse through.
2. Explain to the children that they will be making counting books by gluing pictures of similar items on different pages.
3. The children begin by cutting out one picture of an object to glue on page one. Help them write the numeral 1 somewhere on that page.



4. As they complete page one, give them another piece of paper. Ask them to glue a picture(s) of two similar objects on the page. They might use pictures of two dogs, two animals, two stuffed toys, and so on. Let the children decide how “similar” the items should be. This helps them learn to categorize while also encouraging creative thinking.
5. Help them write the numeral 2 on the page.
6. Continue until each child decides she is finished (perhaps five pages). Older children may want to work on their books for several days and make 10 pages.
7. Encourage the children to dictate a story about the items they chose for each page and how they are similar. Help them to write the name of the item at the top or the bottom on the page. For younger children, it sometimes helps to write the word on a separate piece of paper for them to copy.
8. Help the children create covers for their books. On a piece of construction paper, help them write “My Counting Book,” “My Book of Numbers,” or whatever they want. Let them write their names at the bottom of the cover.
9. Punch two holes in the cover and the pages of the book on the left side. Use brads or yarn to bind or tie the pages together.

+ Sandra K. Bynum, Blackfoot, ID

Making a Measuring Book

Downloaded by test@gryphonhouse.com from

counting, measurement, number order

Materials

library books
rulers
paper
crayons and markers
stapler (adult only)

What to do

1. Ask each child to choose a favorite library book. Ask them to draw a picture of the most exciting part of the story. Make sure the paper is held horizontally so they will all fit into a class booklet.
2. Help the children write the title of the book on their page, below or above the drawing.
3. Show the children how to position a favorite library book as though they were ready to read it, and use a ruler to measure from the left side of the book to the right side.