

Shepherd 3-Year-Old Activities

Date: March 20, 2020

Theme: Life in the Desert

Book: Cactus Hotel by Brenda Guiberson
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoBKz38yZqY>

Craft: Painted Cactus Rocks

Literacy: Positional Words & Following Directions – “Simon Says”
Letter T

Math: Patterns – ABAB, ABCABC, AABAAB

Science: How does a cactus retain water?

Outdoor Activity: Rock Hunt & Desert Observation

Bible Lesson: Saul to Paul
<https://youtu.be/1-Me51GLnlE>

Songs: “Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes!”
<https://youtu.be/Ozzo7GQLoAE>

Recipe: make Toast! *T is for Toast!*

Craft: Painted Cactus Rocks

Paint a rock to look like a cactus. Don't forget to add the 'spikes' after the paint dries.

Modified option would be to draw and/or color a cactus

Have your child identify cactus colors, different shapes of cacti, different types of needles, the parts of a cactus (arms, needles), etc.



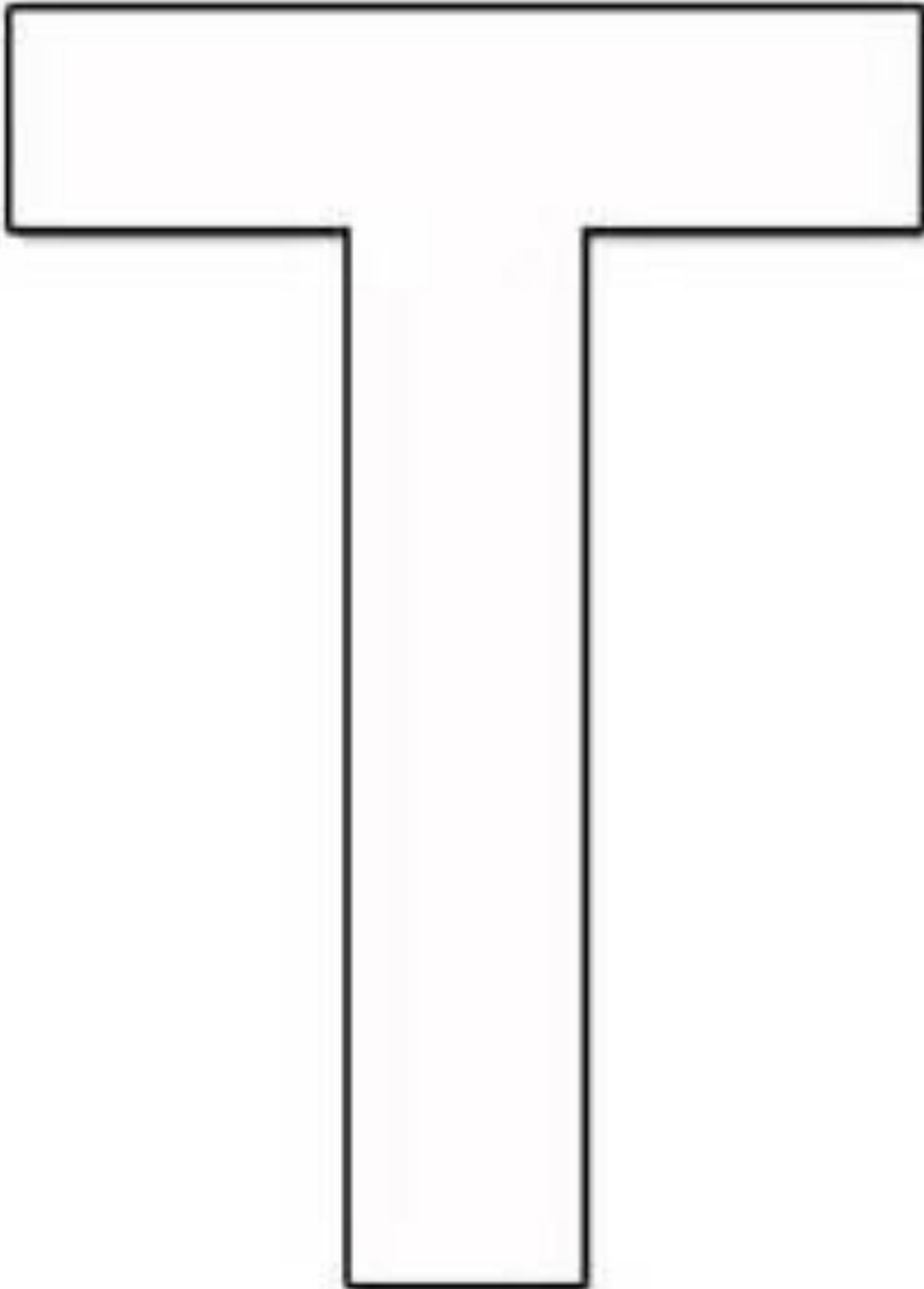
Literacy: Positional Words & Following Directions – “Simon Says”

Play Simon Says with your child.

1. Get your child or children to stand facing you.
2. Tell them that they should copy your orders only if you first say the words “Simon Says”.
3. Tell them that they are out of the game if they follow an order that doesn't begin with "Simon says," or if they fail to do what Simon says they should do.
4. Begin by saying something like "Simon says, put your finger on your nose."
5. Then check to see if everyone has put their finger on their nose.
6. Give another order such as, "Simon says, stand on one foot." Check again.
7. Continue giving orders. Mix it up and say something like "Raise your right hand," without saying "Simon says" first.
8. If someone puts up their right hand, then they are out of the game.
9. Play until one person is left. That is the winner.
10. Let that person give the commands for the next round!

Letter T Practice – Use the letter T below and a Hot Wheels, or play car, and some paint. Place a small amount of paint on a plate and have your child drive the car through the paint, then onto the “T is for tracks” paper. The car will leave tracks all over the T.

T is for tracks



Tt is for
Teddy bear



Math: Patterns

Gather 12-15 similar items from around the house of 2 or 3 colors.

Post its, socks, crayons, or even colored dots on a piece of paper work great.

Use these items to create patterns.

Take turns with your child making patterns: ABAB, ABCABC, AABAAB, etc.

Science: How Does a Cactus Retain Water?

The desert we live in is very hot in the summer and we do not get a lot of rain. So how does a cactus retain water during the hot months?

This experiment using paper towels helps show how a cactus retains water.

Complete the steps with your child, having them do as many of these steps as possible:

1. Lay one paper towel flat on a baking sheet.
2. Next to it, fold another paper towel like an accordion (like the pleats of a cactus).
3. Have your child squirt each paper towel with an equal number of squirts of water until both are soaked through.
4. Place the baking sheet outside in the sun.
5. Predict which paper towel will dry faster.
6. Check the results in an hour or two and discuss with your child. Reinforce that this is similar to the pleats on a cactus that retain water.

Outdoor Activity: Go outside and hunt for a small rock to paint!

Run, hop, skip. just have fun! Go outside and search for a saguaro!

Do you see any other types of cactus?

Do you see any desert animals?

How many different types of flowers can you find?

Recipe: Toast! *T is for Toast!* Help your child toast a piece of bread and then let them spread the 'toppings' --butter, jam, peanut butter, and cinnamon sugar (recipe below) are just a couple of ideas.

Cinnamon Toast Recipe

- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 2 slices white bread
- Margarine or butter

Mix cinnamon and sugar together in small bowl. Toast bread and spread with margarine or butter. Sprinkle cinnamon and sugar mixture on top and enjoy!

