

Shepherd 2-Year-Old Activities

Date: Friday, March 20, 2020

Theme: Desert Dwellers

Books: “The Three Little Javelinas” by Susan Lowell
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbUQpUKinKA>

“There Was a Coyote Who Swallowed a Flea” by Jennifer Ward
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TINBBSfZjs>

Crafts: Mosaic Lizard
Play Dough Snakes

Literacy: What goes together?

Math: Search by type, color, and shape

Science: How does a cactus retain water?

Outdoor Activity: Nature walk

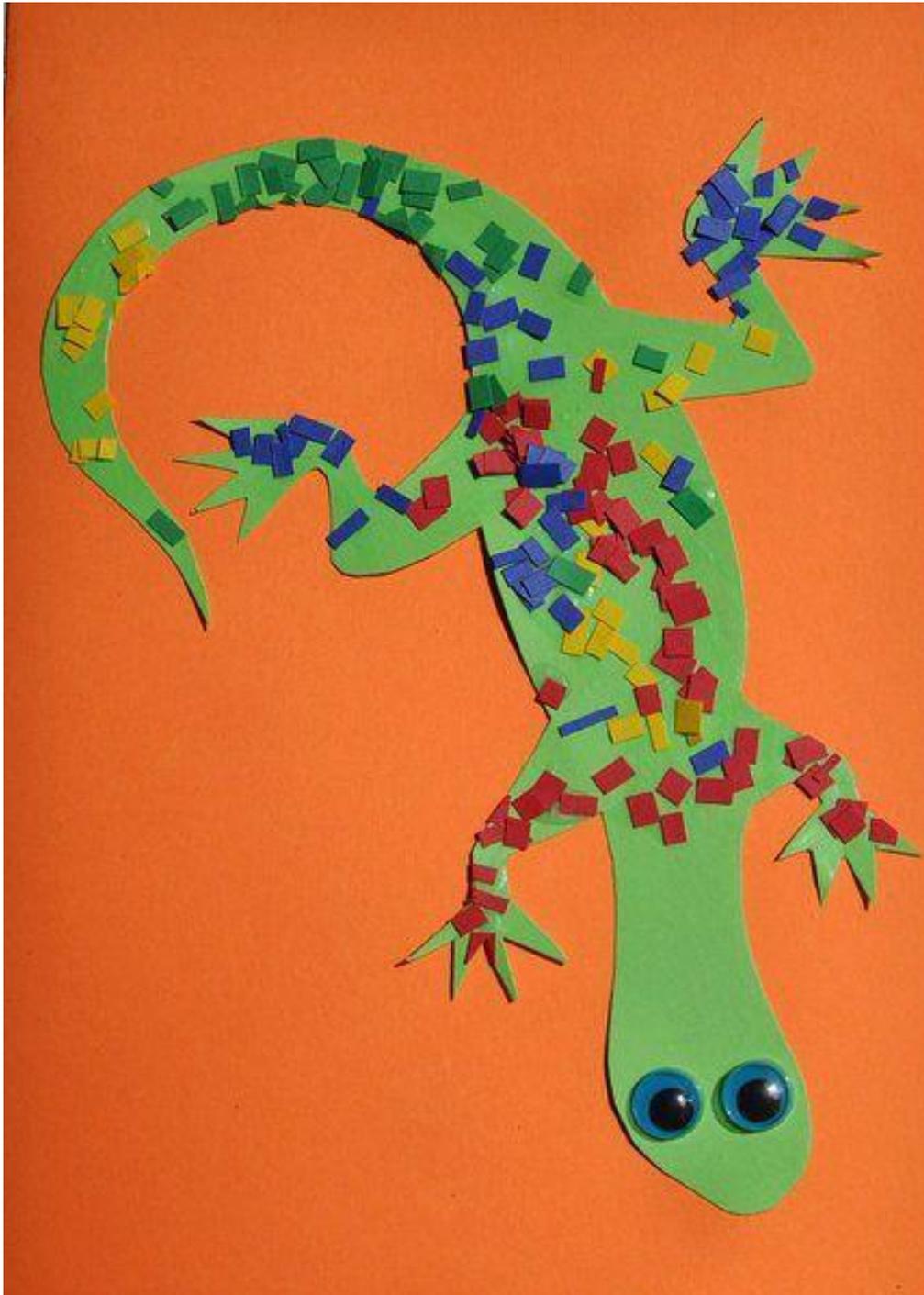
Bible Lesson: “Saul is Changed”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CA8YQTO4qh0>

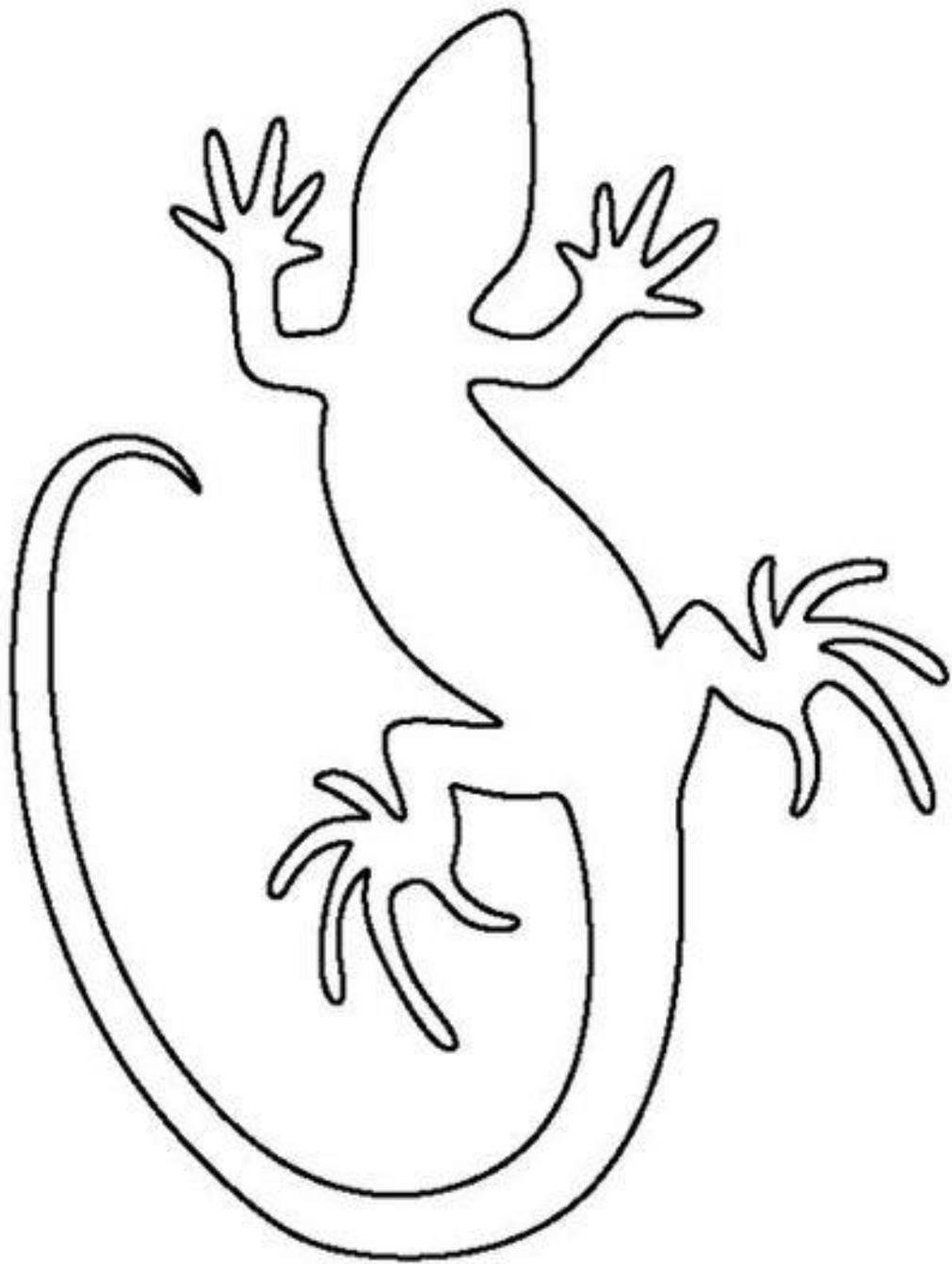
Song: “The Animals in the Desert” sung to the tune of
“The Wheels on the Bus”

Recipe: Homemade play dough

Craft: Mosaic Lizard

Print and cut out the lizard traceable on next page. Then have your child color or paint it. Add any extra colors, details as you may have at home: beads, colored paper pieces or tissues.

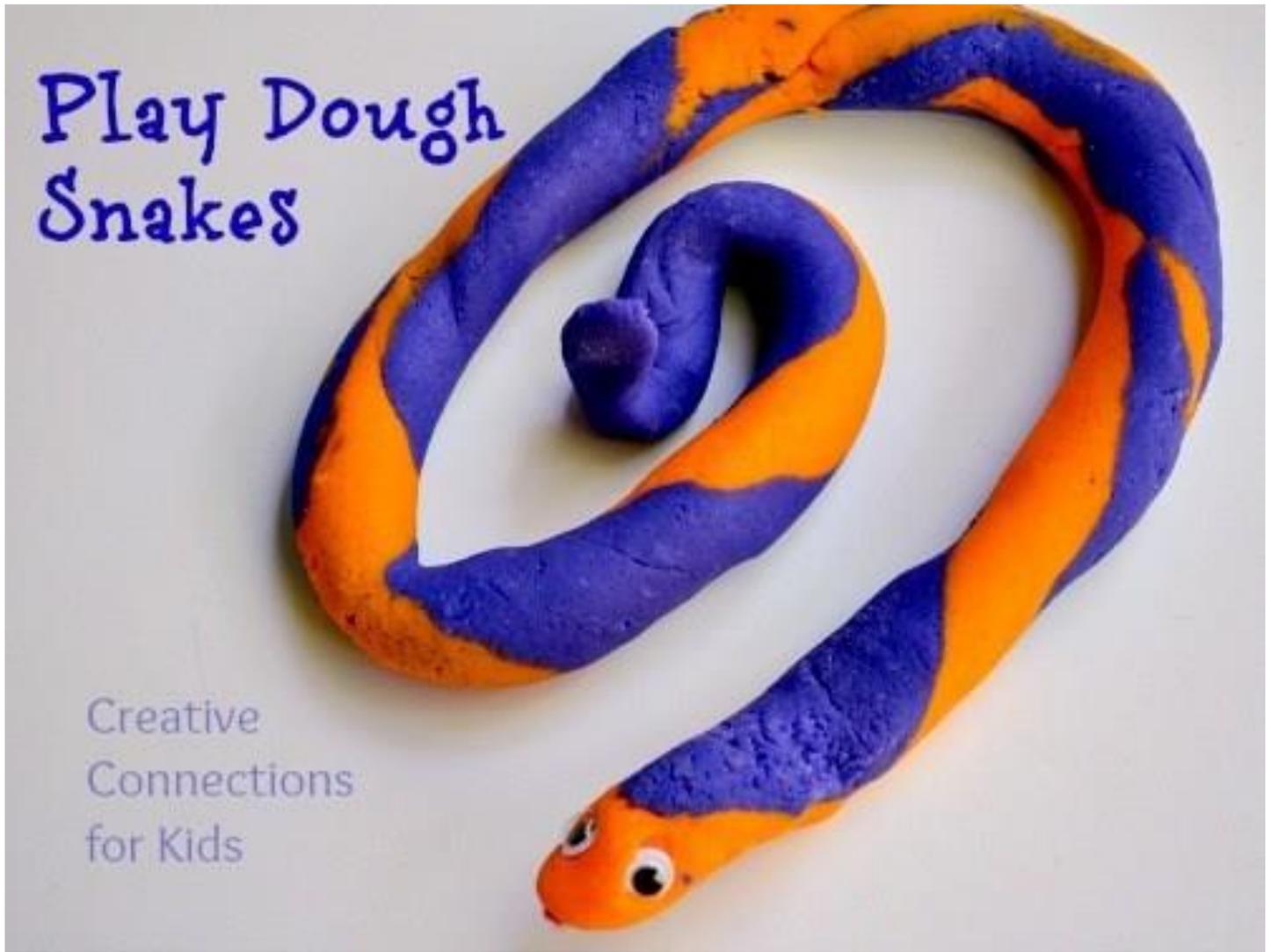




Craft: Play Dough Snake

Have fun making shapes and animals with play dough. If you do not have play dough at home, there is a simple recipe in our recipe section at the end of this packet.

At school, we pull out all of our cookie cutters and rolling pins and use those to also make fun shapes with the play dough!



Literacy: What Goes Together?

Talk with your child about things that go together. Here are a few examples:

Do lizards and snakes go together?

(Yes, they both live in the desert)

Do beach balls and sand go together?

Does a toothbrush and a refrigerator go together?

This activity can be done anyplace, with any number of items. Encourage your child to come up with some ideas of things that go together and maybe some silly things that do **NOT** go together. 😊

Math: Search by Type, Color, and Shape

Game idea is to play “I Spy...”

“I spy something blue.” Have your child find 3 (vary the number) items that are blue.

“I spy something round.”

“I spy something that can be eaten.”

Take turns with you child and ask them to be the person who says, “I spy...” and you can search.

Another math idea is to use the cut out lizard from the craft and ask your child to count how many legs it has, how many toes on each foot, 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: Nature Walk

Take a nature walk and explain that we live in a very unique place—the Sonoran Desert. Point out plants and items that are particular to our part of the country including the giant saguaro and other various cacti. How many different kinds of wildflowers can you find?

Bring your new lizard craft along on the walk and let your child take a photo of it on the ground in its natural habitat! ☺

Encourage naming colors and shapes of things you come across. This is a great way to play the “I Spy” game mentioned previously! There’s nothing like some fresh air, vitamin D and the beauty of the Sonoran Desert! Don’t forget your sunscreen!

Song: “The Animals in the Desert”

The Animals in the Desert

(Sung to: The Wheels on the Bus)

Verse 1:

(Jackrabbit—jump in place)

The jackrabbit in the desert hops like this, hops like this, hops like this.

The jackrabbit in the desert hops like this, all night long.

Verse 2:

(Coyote—cuff hands and howl)

The coyote in the desert howls awww, awww, awww; awww, awww, awww;
awww, awww, awww.

The coyote in the desert howls awww, awww, awww, all night long.

Verse 3:

(Rattlesnake—have your child hiss exaggerating the tongue movement)

The rattlesnake in the desert goes hiss, hiss, hiss; hiss, hiss, hiss; hiss, hiss, hiss.

The rattlesnake in the desert goes hiss, hiss, hiss, all night long.

Verse 4:

(Roadrunner—run in place)

The roadrunner in the desert runs fast like this, fast like this, fast like this.

The roadrunner in the desert runs fast like this, all night long!

Recipe: Homemade Play Dough

Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup water
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 1/3 cup salt
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- food coloring

Instructions:

1. Mix together all the ingredients in a 2-quart saucepan.
2. Cook over low/medium heat, stirring.
3. Continue stirring until the mixture is thickened and begins to gather around the spoon.
4. Remove the dough onto wax paper or a plate to cool.
5. Cool completely before storing in a Ziploc bag or sealed container.

Note: you can also add a few drops of peppermint or vanilla (or whatever scent you have/like)!