

Resource Sheet - Thesaurus Rex

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Activity suggestions for 4-6 year olds

Make & Take: Synonym Eater Character

1. Your colourful "synonym eater" will naturally draw the children's attention to the activity!!
2. After reading Thesaurus Rex or another book that may focus on synonym words, talk to the children about synonyms being two different words that mean the same thing.
3. Explain that your "synonym eater" eats two words at a time - and, the two words have to have the same meaning.
4. Try various combinations of word discs - asking each time, "Would our Synonym Eater like to eat these words together - glide/chomp?" Wait for responses and talk about them. Try other word combinations until the synonym eater is full!!

Song: Thesaurus Rex

(tune: Row, Row, Row Your Boat by: Tracie Vaughn Zimmer)

Read, read, read some books
new ones every day
learn new words, like "synonym"
then go out and play!

Write, write, write new words
something fresh and new
just like Thesaurus Rex
a synonym or two!

Other Activities that Enhance the Book "Thesaurus Rex"

Language - During a group activity, ask the children to give 5 words that describe things they "do" (action words) during the day. Write them on a large sheet of paper. Encourage them to come up with other words that mean the same thing (synonyms). Eg. If they say "colour", some synonym words might be "draw", "create", "brighten", etc. Have a thesaurus available during the activity as a reference. Talk to the children about what a thesaurus is and what it is used for.

Explore the Story - Talk about and ask questions about the story. For example, you may ask the children to "Describe Thesaurus Rex. What kind of a friend do you think he would be?". "Did you learn any new words from this book? Which ones?" "Which picture is your favourite? Why?" "How many eyes/feet/bathtubs are in the book?" Have fun with this!

Science - Dinosaur Dig - Provide materials for the children in your group to become **Palaeontologists**. Hide miniature dinosaurs and fossils in "rock". (Instructions attached). Provide safety glasses, brushes, magnifying glasses, hammers, etc. for the children to chip away at the rock to find the hidden objects.

Sensory - Make up some "Dinodough" (recipe attached). Have the children choose a mini dinosaur figure and place it inside a plastic egg. Cover the egg with "Dinodough". Make a nest for the egg using sticks, grass, leaves, etc. Allow the egg to air dry. Once the eggs are dry, the children can help their dinosaurs to "hatch" by cracking open the dough.

Bookmaking - make a book using two words that mean the same thing (synonyms). This will illustrate for the children that one object or action can have more than one word to describe it.

Action Play - Give each child a dinosaur figure and choose pages from the story that their dinosaur can act out. They can make their dinosaur skid, slide and glide; munch, crunch, nibble and chomp; bounce, jump and spring; etc.

Cooperative Table Game - Reinforce synonym words with beginning readers by playing the "Peas in a Pod" game. (Instructions to build the game are attached.) This game is for two players, so it also reinforces cooperative play.

Check out these related books:

An Alphabet Dinosaur by: Byron Barton

Whatever Happened to the Dinosaur? by: Bernard Most

Dinosaur Roar by: Paul Strickland

Dinosaurs Bones by: Alikei

Check out this Website

www.scholastic.com/wordgirl/synonym_toast.htm