

Activities for a Winnie-the Pooh Curriculum

Kick off

Kick off your Pooh study unit by having a Winnie-the-Pooh day with your class.

Here are some things you might do:

- Ask your children to bring in their stuffed friends and a cozy pillow or blanket for relaxing when they enjoy their Pooh stories.
- Enjoy honey on graham crackers as a snack.
- Have “Pooh Moments” all day: take a break and share an excerpt from some of the stories you’ll be reading.
- Invite a principal, grandparent, superintendent, or a local celebrity to come in and read a Pooh story.
- Have children staple blank papers together to create special “Pooh Journals” for the activities ahead. Have them decorate their journal covers with their favorite Pooh characters.
- Create a growing list of favorite “Poohisms,” like “Isn’t it funny how a bear likes honey?” Post them around the room.
- Begin this and each day of your Pooh study with a thought from Pooh.
- Begin a growing list of words associated with the Pooh stories for a spelling reference for the children. Post it.

Introduction to Pooh

What Kind of Bear is Winnie-the-Pooh?

As a class, brainstorm the different types of bears that your children can call to mind. Write them down on large chart paper for your students, drawing quick illustrations if necessary in color beside each for your early readers. Then pose the question, “Just what kind of bear is Winnie the Pooh?” Partner up your children and ask them to discuss this and come up with a conclusion. They should jot down their reasons for their choice and be ready to share them with the class.

When the children have had some opportunity to consider the question, pull them together. At this point you can...

- Have each pair share their thoughts
- Create a class graph on their bear choices
- Create a class web showing your different opinions

Extension Activity

Children can continue to pursue the answer to this question by conducting their own research on different bears. Referring to the list generated by the class, students can self-select a bear on which to become an expert. The following websites offer information on bears: www.nature-net.com/bears

www.bearden.org
exn.ca/bears/bears.cfm

Your class might enjoy learning that Winnie-the-Pooh was named after a brown bear named Winnie that A.A.Milne's son, Christopher liked to visit at the London Zoo.

How many letters in Christopher Robin?

Pull your class together and ask them to determine how many letters are in the name "Christopher Robin." Write down their guesses/answers on chart paper. Have children talk through the way that they came up with their answers. (Did children count letter by letter, by twos, etc.) Give each child a piece of paper and have each of them write out his or her name. Ask each child to determine how many letters are in his or her full name and to show two different ways to solve this problem. For example, a child might count by twos while another counts up the letters in her first name, counts up the letters in her last and then uses the algorithm to add up these two numbers. After the children have completed this task, pull your team together and have children share their findings.

Extension Activity

- Create a class graph to determine how many letters are in each of their names.
- Determine as a class how many letters there are in all of their names put together.

Who is Pooh to you?

Pull students together on the rug or floor and share the wonderful role that Winnie-the-Pooh and his stories have played in your childhood and life. Recall a special memory you might have for the students. Then ask children to respond in journals or on paper to the following: What do you know about Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends? When the children have been given ample time to write, pull the class together and have those students eager to share do so.

Poohcrostics

Have each child in your class choose a favorite Pooh character and create an acrostic poem that describes that character. For example:

P udgy little bear

O h! How I love to read his adventures

O ut he popped from Rabbits hole

H ow does he eat so much honey?

Then on a large sheet of white paper, have the children create a big picture of the character they've written about and write edited poem in the characters belly.