

EARLY YEARS LESSON PLAN: JUNGLE



Physical adaptations

- Provide different paths through the Jungle Adventure based on the needs of the children using mats for crawling and rolling, throw down markers as tactile guides, stable equipment/furniture for children to support themselves.
- Provide ramps for rolling balls.
- Support children who are wheelchair users to propel with one hand whilst pushing the ball.
- Provide long handled rackets so that ball can be reached from a sitting position.
- Position paired children in the same way (e.g. if one child is a wheelchair user their partner will also sit down).

Sensory processing adaptations

- Use the command 'freeze' instead of 'lion' for easier understanding.

Visual and hearing adaptations

- Support the 'leopard' command with a visual cue.
- Set up target using bright equipment on a dark mat background for maximum contrast.
- Provide a tactile reference (e.g. working next to the hall wall) for children with visual impairment for the route when pushing to a target.

Cognition and learning adaptations

- Be vigilant for misunderstanding when pretending the ball is an animal, neurodivergent children and children with intellectual disability may find this ambiguous and confusing, using balls that have animals on may support this.

EARLY YEARS LESSON PLAN: JUNGLE



EQUIPMENT

- Spots
- Cones
- Lines
- Any equipment to make an obstacle course
- Beanbags
- Hoops
- Traffic cones
- Rackets or hitting hands

WARM UP: JUNGLE EXPLORERS

SET THE SCENE

"We are going on a jungle adventure."

HOW TO PLAY

- Set up an obstacle course placing the cones around the space (you could use other equipment if available).
- Select one child as the leader. The other children follow the leader through the obstacle course.
- Encourage the children to move in different ways e.g. jumping, walking, running, zig-zag.
- Change the leader throughout the activity giving each child the opportunity to help increase their confidence. For a large group, you may want to assign different leaders who start at different points of the obstacle course.
- Now add a listening challenge. When you call out "leopard" the children have to freeze still for 3 seconds.
- Now the children are given a baby jungle animal (ball) to carry through the jungle adventure. They should keep two hands on the ball, without dropping it.

TEACHING POINTS

- Change the type of movement through the obstacle course e.g. low, high, sideways, forwards, backwards.
- Change direction through the cones.
- Hold a freeze position.

BRAIN FOCUS ACTIVITIES



EARLY YEARS LESSON PLAN: JUNGLE



SKILL UP

- Add in crawling actions to the course.

BODY & BALL: FEED THE MONKEYS

SET THE SCENE

"Now it's time to feed the monkeys."

HOW TO PLAY

- Place spots opposite the monkey caves (hoops) approximately 1 metre apart.
- Children stand on the spots with monkey food (beanbags).
- Children take it in turns to throw the monkey food into the monkey caves.
- The monkeys are hungry so keep feeding them and repeat several times.
- After 3 successful feeds with the food landing in the cave, move the spot a step further away from the target. "Can you make the food land softly in the cave?"
- If needed, move the spot closer to the monkey cave or use a large hoop on the ground.

TEACHING POINTS

- Throw with one hand.
- Swing the arm low to high at the side of the body.
- Palm and fingers point towards the target.
- Emphasise control over power.



BRAIN FOCUS ACTIVITIES

SKILL UP

- Use buckets or baskets as the monkey caves so that the children have to control the throw higher.
- Increase the distance from the monkey caves.
- Throw with the right hand, and with the left hand so that the children are developing both sides of the body.

EARLY YEARS LESSON PLAN: JUNGLE



RACKET & BALL: MONKEY PATH PUSH

SET THE SCENE

"We are going to take the food to the monkey caves."

HOW TO PLAY

- Place spots opposite the monkey caves (hoops) approximately 1 metre apart.
- Children start on the spots, and each child has a racket and a ball (monkey food) that they place on the ground. Using the racket children walk and roll the ball towards the monkey caves, stopping the ball in the hoop.
- Then roll the ball back to the spot.
- The monkeys are hungry so keep feeding them and repeat several times.
- Count how many times you can feed the monkeys.

TEACHING POINTS

- Watch the ball.
- Have the racket and ball at the side of the body.
- Keep the ball close to the racket.
- Point your palm and racket strings towards the target.
- Walk with control.



SKILL UP

- Increase the speed of movement across the jungle.
- Place the obstacles on the floor between the spots and the hoops, encouraging children to move in different directions around the space and increasing spatial awareness of others moving in different directions.

GAME: CROCODILE RIVER ROLL

SET THE SCENE

"We need to send the ball through the river.....beware of the crocodiles!"

HOW TO PLAY

- Children work in pairs and stand opposite their partner, approximately 1 metre apart.

TEACHING POINTS

- Get ready – watch the ball and face forward.
- React - move to the ball.



EARLY YEARS LESSON PLAN: JUNGLE



- Place 2 cones in the middle between the children; cones are placed approximately 1 metre apart creating a channel for the ball to be hit through.
- Each child has a racket, and 1 ball per pair.
- One child starts with the ball and rolls it using the racket to their partner aiming for the ball to pass through the cones so that it doesn't get eaten by the crocodiles.
- Their partner splats the ball to stop it and then sends it back in the same way.
- Repeat several times aiming to successfully achieve the ball crossing the river through the cones 3 times.
- Racket and ball to the side of the body.
- Palm / strings point towards the target.
- Use cue words: "roll it" "stop it" "good sharing!"



SKILL UP

- Instead of stopping the ball try to roll it straight back to your partner.

COOL DOWN

"Set the scene" "We are going to be tall jungle trees."

- Children stand on their tiptoes with arms reaching high to act as tall jungle trees.

Stretch up high, take a deep breath in, and slowly exhale as they bring their arms back down. Repeat several times.