

Fish Search



VIRGINIA
AQUARIUM
& MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

This active game will have your child searching all over for animals!

Duration

Preparation: 15 minutes, with child helping for some

Activity: 15 minutes

Supplies

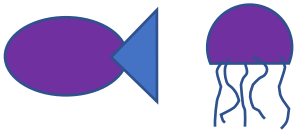
- Sticky notes
OR
- Paper and tape
- Crayons, markers, or pencils

Background

Gross motor skills are movement and coordination skills that use large muscle groups, like crawling or jumping, while fine motor skills use control of small muscles, like pinching and pointing. For this activity, children will work on fine motor control of making marks on paper first, then gross motor movement when they search for hidden creatures.

Instructions

1. Draw your favorite Aquarium animals on sticky notes or small pieces of paper. If your child does not yet have the control to make marks on a small paper like the sticky notes, try sticking several notes next to each other. Don't worry about your art skills! An oval and a triangle make a great fish for your child to color and scribbles called a turtle work just as well.



2. Hide the sticky notes around the house by posting them on walls or furniture. Start with a few that are very easy to find and step up to more of a challenge if your child is up for it.
3. Encourage your child to locate the animals and “catch” them one at a time to bring them back to you, the animal keeper.
4. Try asking them to move in different ways while searching. Can your child pretend to swim to find a fish or slither to a hidden snake?

Vocabulary

Name colors and shapes that are used in your artwork.

As you draw, talk about what you know about your favorite animals. Have you seen them when you visited the Aquarium?

When an animal is found, ask your child how they would take care of it. What do they think it might want to eat?

Extension

Sort the animals when they are found, putting animals that live in water on a blue piece of paper and animals that live on land on a green piece of paper.