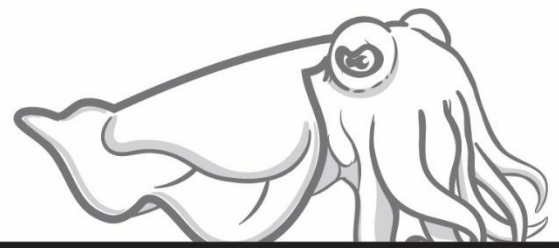


Circle time for animal birthdays



Ospi Developmental Milestones

Motor skills and learning to learn:

- Stay with a task for more than five minutes and attempt to solve problems that arise
- Use imagination to create a variety of ideas
- Shows an increasing ability to use art materials safely and with purpose

Science and math:

- Count to 20 and beyond. Count 10 or more objects accurately
- Asks questions and identify ways to find answers
- Investigates the properties of things in nature. Begin to understand what various life forms need in order to grow and live

Social studies:

- Describe family members and understand simple relationships
- Talk about the past and future, such as what the child did this morning and what their family will do this weekend

Theme

This circle time lesson will explain what a birthday is for other animals and include a birthday card coloring page that can be displayed in your classroom. There will also be an optional matching game as an add-on activity. The goal of the lesson will be to build upon empathy for marine life while supporting the OSPI developmental milestones.

Materials needed for lesson

For this lesson you will need access to a printer and a way to display the egg and animal photos, like with a whiteboard and magnets.

- Printed animal birthday card coloring pages. These are the cards that have the outline of the animal on them.
- Printed photos of eggs, baby animals, and adult animals

- Coloring utensils

Topics to discuss with students

1. What is a baby?
 - a. When an animal or person is new to the world, we call them a baby.
2. What is a birthday?
 - a. A birthday is the day that a baby animal or person first comes into the world. Some people celebrate birthdays as a way to show we love and care about another person. It can show that we are happy they are here with us.
3. What is a hatchday?
 - a. Animals that hatch from eggs don't have birthdays. They have hatchdays because they hatch.
 - b. Only animals that come from eggs have hatchdays. For other animals it is called birthdays.
 - c. We can celebrate a hatchday the same way we celebrate a birthday.
4. What is an egg?
 - a. Eggs are a way for animals to come into this world. The baby grows inside the egg and when it hatches the baby comes out. When it hatches that is the animal's hatchday.
 - b. Lots of animals hatch from eggs, like chickens, snakes, and lots of fish.
5. How are dogfish sharks born?
 - a. Dogfish sharks are both hatched from eggs and then born from their mothers! When a mother dogfish shark creates an egg, she holds it inside her body to keep it safe until it is ready to hatch. After the egg hatches then she gives birth to the live shark baby.
 - b. If you think that this concept might be too confusing for your students feel free to omit the dogfish sharks.
6. Babies grow bigger and turn into adults
 - a. Babies grow over time. When enough time passes and they get enough to eat they grow into adults.
 - b. Sometimes the baby animals will look very different from the grown-ups.

Supplemental lesson plan

1. Gather the printed photos and have your students gather for a circle time lesson the way your class normally does
2. Explain to them that you will be talking about how different animals have birthdays.

- a. During the entire lesson, allow time for the students to ask questions and have a discussion.
- b. Ask questions about the size, color, and amount of items in each photo.
3. For each baby/egg photo ask the students what the photo is and what type of animal it is going to be when it grows up. Then show the adult photo.
 - a. Explain that just like people, animals change as they grow older. Baby animals will look different than the grown-up version of the same animal.
 - b. You can also explain that animals need food, water, and safety to grow up too.
4. “Some people celebrate birthdays because it is a way to show that they are grateful that their loved one is alive. We can celebrate the birthdays of animals as well to show them that we are grateful that they are alive and here with us.”
 - a. “One way that we can celebrate a birthday is by making a birthday card.”
 - b. “We are going to be making birthday cards for (insert your preferred birthday animal here) that lives at the Seattle Aquarium.”
 - c. “After we are done with our cards, we will be hanging them up so that everybody knows we are celebrating (insert your preferred birthday animal here).”
5. Have the students transition to coloring time and have them color their birthday cards.

Add-on activity

For an additional activity after circle time, you can have the students do a matching game at their tables.

Print out additional copies of the animal and baby/egg photos and have the students try to match the baby/egg with the adult animal using the provided worksheet below:

What does this animal turn into?

Draw a line connecting the baby with the grown-up animal!



Animal photos for lesson:

