

Fl home learning -Zoo animals- Giraffes Can't Dance

Communication, language and literacy

Introduce syllables (number of beats in a word) to your child and explain how they work by showing them examples, such as clapping out the syllables in their name and yours. Encourage the children to join in clapping and saying the word. For example clap candle – 2 claps- 2 syllables.

Repeat this with different words so the children recognise not every word has the same syllables. Can they think of a word that has 2, 3, 4, 5 syllables? How many syllables do the jungle animals have in their name? Elephant, warthog, lion etc.

At the end of the story 'Giraffes Can't Dance' Gerald found music that he loved and he could dance to it. Ask your child 'What can you do that you love? What can you not do yet but would like to?'

Look at images/books about different people from around the world to encourage discussion about the similarities and differences between different cultures. Could use 'We are all different' ebook on Twinkl.

Numeracy

Order the heights of different sized giraffes (jungle animals) on a Twinkl. Can you cut them out carefully? Which is the tallest giraffe? Which is the smallest giraffe? How many giraffes are there altogether?

Show/draw various 2D shapes such as circle, square, triangle, oblong, star, and diamond. Then while out walking outside or in the house/garden ask the children if they can spot any of these 2D shapes. Encourage them to look on toys as well as fixed features such as posts, buildings etc.

Which shape did we see the most of?

Twinkl - Dancing Giraffe counting sheets and simple addition calculations.

Going outdoors/Physical Development

Play a game of tig or stuck in the mud outside.

Create an obstacle course and challenge each other to see who can complete it the fastest.

Giraffe Limbo- like ordinary limbo but lean your 'giraffe neck' forwards not back and keep your hooves (feet) on the ground. Use a pole/stick that can be held horizontally at various heights.

Reading

All read aloud on 'You Tube'. Introduce the story to the children and ask them what they think the story might be about. Ask them where the blurb is and what it tells them. Then read the blurb to the children and see if they have changed their minds.

Our main book is 'Giraffes Can't Dance.' Throughout the book talk to the children about being unfair and unkind to others. Ask the children if that is how they play at home/school with their friends. At the end of the story recap what happened throughout and talk about how Gerald felt.

Stories about 'whips it is ok to be you';

'Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon'

'Woolbur'

'Be Who You Are'

'Not Your Typical Dragon'

Pencil control

Continue to practise writing your name and trying to use the correct letter formation.

Twinkl - Dancing Giraffe pencil control sheets.

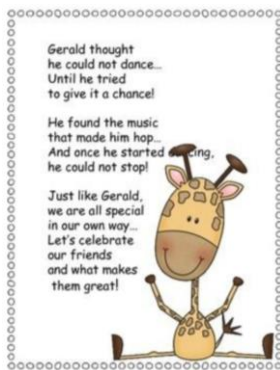
Can you draw some of the characters from the story 'Giraffes Can't Dance'? Can you colour them in and cut them out? Can you use them to act out the story?

Can you use chalk outside or a big piece of paper to make different shapes - can you draw a big circle, a small circle, a zig zag line, a straight line? Maybe your adult could show you how to do it first.

Songs

The animals in 'Giraffes Can't Dance' dance to different kinds of music and perform different styles of dance. Use this opportunity to introduce your child to new music and dance styles. Show the, videos online of different dance styles, such as waltz, tango, salsa etc.

Try to learn the lyrics to this song about Gerald giraffe.



Art and design

Paper bag giraffe puppets (recap on 2d shapes) - Cut out two white circles for eyes and two black circle for inside the eye, a big yellow circle for the giraffes face, two yellow diamonds for the giraffes ears and two black horns. Glue them onto the top of the paper bag. Then use markers/crayons to draw giraffe spots on your puppets. Then put your hand inside the bottom of the paper bag and you have your very own Gerald Giraffe.

Paint spots on a giraffe - draw the outline of a giraffe on white paper or use the outline on Twinkl and add spots to it. You could use your finger or an object, such as a pen lid.

Create a night time scene like Gerald's dancing scene in the book - Use dark coloured paper (blue/black) and star stickers, glitter, felt tips pens to create your own wonderful night time scene. Cut out your 'spotty' giraffe from the previous activity and stick Gerald onto the scene.

Understanding of the world

Watch videos on 'You tube' about Giraffes. Type 'giraffes for children' into the search box and watch different videos to find out about giraffes in the wild. You can also search 'webcam of giraffes in zoos'. Discuss with your child how the giraffes are different in the wild and in the zoo. Country living has a list of animal webcams and you can watch the giraffes live at 'Houston Zoo'. What other animals do they share their enclosure with? Why do you think that all of these animals can live together?

Personal, social and emotional development

Make three circles on the floor and label the circles with three feelings - happy, sad, angry (or cross). Show your child the feelings with facial expressions. Next, ask your child to place a soft toy in the circle to show how they (the soft toy) might feel in different situations.

Example situations would be:

Teddy loses his/her favourite toy;

Teddy's friend says that they love him/her;

Teddy's friend goes to live in a new house a long way away;

Teddy falls over and hurts his/her knee etc. Can they explain why the teddy might be happy, sad and angry (cross)?

Discussion - In the book Gerald gets bullied by the other animals because he dances differently than they do.

Talk to your child about how everyone is different. What can you do that makes you different? Also talk about the animals being unkind. How did Gerald feel when the animals were being mean? Have they ever felt that way? What do they think they could do to help someone who might be feeling the same way as Gerald?

Baking

Make banana Gerald giraffes - Use half of the banana for his head, raisins(chocolate covered if you wish) for his spots, a slice of banana for his mouth, some small eyes (from baking aisle) or more raisins and use a small amount of banana peel for his ears.