DRAMA T I C  P L A Y

What to do
1. Make a river by laying a long piece of blue paper on the floor. Place a few plastic fish on top of the paper.
2. Set up the tent and talk about the supplies needed for camping.
3. Allow small groups of two to four children to explore the tent and supplies.
4. You may want to play with the children to model what people do on camping trips.
5. Add more materials if the children seem interested.

Related book
When I'm Sleepy by Jane R. Howard
Sandy L. Scott, Meridian, ID

The Hare and the Tortoise

OLDER TODDLERS

Materials
- rabbit puppet (or stuffed animal)
- tortoise puppet (or stuffed animal)
- other animal puppets

What to do
1. Tell or read “The Hare and the Tortoise” to the children. You may need to simplify the language by calling the hare a bunny and the tortoise a turtle.
2. After telling the story, invite the children to hop like bunnies. Then have them crawl like turtles on their hands and knees.
3. Encourage them to race across the room like a hare or a tortoise.
4. Let the children act out the race between the hare and the tortoise using puppets. Don’t forget the other animals cheering at the end.

Related books
- *The Hare and the Tortoise* by Carol Jones
- *Hare and the Tortoise* by Helen Ward
- *I Can’t Get My Turtle to Move* by Elizabeth Lee O’Donnell
- *The Tortoise and the Hare* by Janet Stevens

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**Calendar Collection**

**OLDER TODDLERS**

**Materials**
old calendars with glossy photos of animals, famous paintings, and so on

**What to do**
1. Put out a variety of old calendars. Introduce the children to the images on each calendar page, the numbers in each date box, and the names of the days of the week.
2. Cut up one of the calendars, separating the squares containing the dates for each day, and show the children how to put them in order on another calendar. Children this age may not recognize the numbers, but they can have fun putting the squares on top of each other.

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**Story Circle Dress Up**

**OLDER TODDLERS**

**Materials**
collection of age-appropriate, familiar stories
construction paper strips
markers
hat
circular rug
box of simple costumes that fit the story being told
The hare yawned sleepily as the meek tortoise trudged slowly off. When the hare saw how painfully slow his rival was, he decided, half asleep on his feet, to have a quick nap. "Take your time! I'll have forty winks and catch up with you in a minute." The hare woke with a start from a fitful sleep and gazed round, looking for the tortoise. But the creature was only a short distance away, having barely covered a third of the course. Breathing a sigh of relief, the hare decided he might as well have breakfast too, and off he went to munch some cabbages he had noticed in a nearby field.