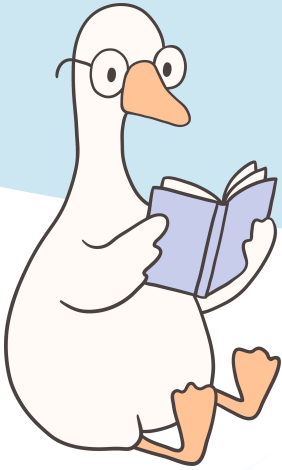


Babbling Babies #chatplayreadbucks



Here are some activities to explore with Babies

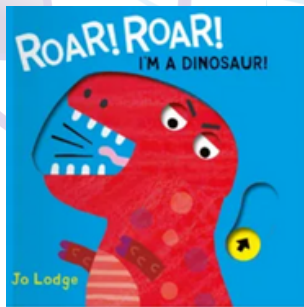
Books to Share



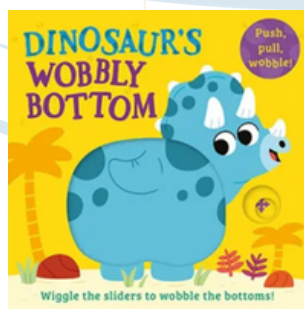
Five Enormous Dinosaurs – Illustrated by Annie Kubler and Sarah Dellow

Count along with five mischievous dinosaurs whilst they play. This charming book provides a brilliant introduction for babies to their first numbers using a well-known nursery rhyme in a fun and enjoyable way. Each page invites readers to count along and act out stomping as each dinosaur leaves the group until there is just one dinosaur at the end.

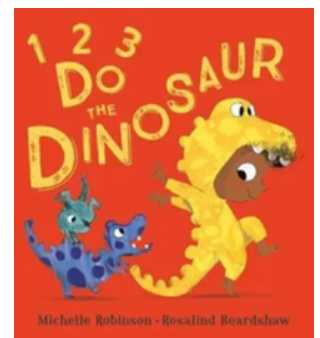
[Five Enormous Dinosaurs | BookTrust](#)



[Roar! Roar! I'm a Dinosaur! | BookTrust](#)



[Dinosaur's Wobbly Bottom | BookTrust](#)



[1, 2, 3, Do the Dinosaur | BookTrust](#)

Why don't you walk to the library to find a copy to borrow. Did you know you can reserve a copy of a book? If you are a nursery or a childminder, ask about your membership as you can borrow more books and borrow them for longer.

[Find a Library – Buckinghamshire Council.](#)

1

Monday

Read the book



Find a comfortable place and enjoy reading the book. Remember to make sure that you have the children's attention and that every child can clearly see the pictures. Find the time to point out specific new vocabulary and the detail of the illustration. Story times are great opportunities to support children's developing Communication and Language skills. Always make sure the stories you share are good quality texts and you know the reasons for choosing the books. You may be able to use some props or visual supports to enhance the experience.

(Some children may benefit from having read the story individually or in a small group before sharing in a larger group or having the opportunity to have shared the book at home with their parents/carers).



2

Tuesday

Learn the rhyme

5 Enormous dinosaurs

Five enormous dinosaurs letting out a roar. ROAR!
 One stomped away and then there were four.
 Stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, ROAR!
 Four enormous dinosaurs knocking down a tree. Clunk!
 One stomped away and then there were three.
 Stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, ROAR!
 Three enormous dinosaurs eating tiger stew. Ew!
 One stomped away and then there were two.
 Stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, ROAR!
 Two enormous dinosaurs sitting in the sun.
 One flapped away and then there was one.
 Flap, flap, flap, flap, flap, flap, flap, flap, ROAR!
 One enormous dinosaur left all alone.
 He stomped away and then there were none.
 Stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, ROAR!

Once the babies have learnt the rhyme have fun with silly voices and rhyming other words -it doesn't even matter if they are real words at all.

Young babies and toddlers learn words by seeing or hearing them linked to real things. So, when you say 'roar' make a roar sound and maybe make claws out of your fingers.

Vocabulary ideas:

Roar and four
 Flap and trap



Wednesday

Move like a Dinosaur!

Physical Development

Pre mobile babies – whilst you are holding the baby rock side to side or forward and back to a steady beat of a dinosaur stomping.

Walking children can try to walk or stomp like a dinosaur. Keeping a steady beat helps children when they are older and learning to read. Show children the difference between a walk and a stomp by demonstrating both moves.

Remember to use your arms as well to sway like a dinosaur. This will help to develop children's gross motor skills and later their fine motor skills. You will probably find that the children move more quickly as a dinosaur – can they move slowly and loudly at the same time?

You can then add other ways of moving for example crawling, jumping, leaping. This is a great way for very young children to learn some new verbs. They are actually doing the action that matches the words they are learning e.g. walking, crawling, jumping, slithering.

After you have moved like dinosaurs you might like to think of other things the baby can move like for example slithering like a snake or jumping like a monkey or flying like a bird.



Thursday

Dinosaur Faces

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

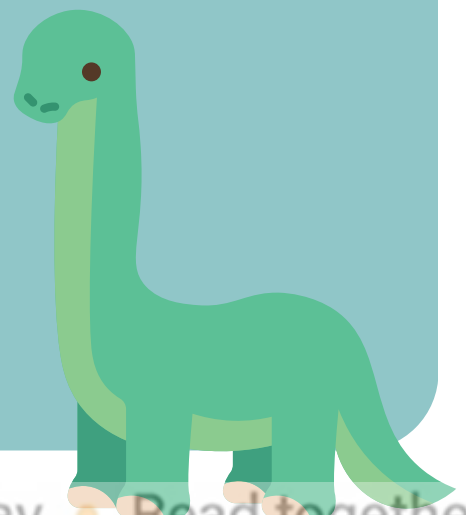
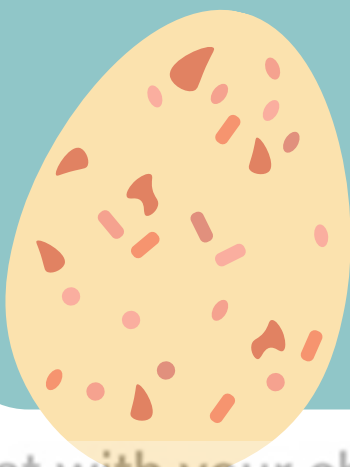


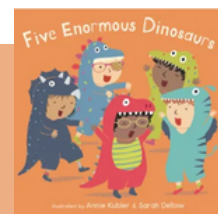
Dinosaur faces – using a mirror make dinosaur faces with the baby. See who can be the scariest dinosaur in all the land. Children will gain a sense of self recognition and self-value by seeing themselves in the mirror. This is a really effective way to promote positive self-esteem. You could name parts of the baby's face e.g. nose, eyes, ears etc.

For older children you can compare similarities and differences with faces for example eye colour, hair colour and texture.

Vocabulary ideas:

Mirror, face, nose





Friday

Dinosaur Home

Communication and Language

Set up your play area as a dinosaur home. Be careful what resources you use as very young children explore new objects by putting them in their mouths first. By using a variety of dinosaurs, you are helping children to review and widen their ideas about what a dinosaur is. For example, a 'T Rex' is a dinosaur but so is a 'Triceratops'. You might also add texture using something like Weetabix or broken up Shredded Wheat cereal to form the ground (*checking allergies first*).

Let the children freely explore, knowing that they are safe to do so. Add the words that they need as and when they need them.



Vocabulary ideas:
One, two, three, four, five



Provision Ideas

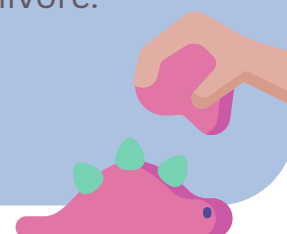
Dinosaur Playdough



Playing with playdough is the perfect way to calm young children. Also, there is nothing young children like better than something that they think may be a little bit daring. You can make playdough using age appropriate, natural resources such as herbs and you've made dinosaur playdough! Young children will love exploring the dough, squeezing and handling it.

The playdough table is often a safe space for babies, so you need to ensure that it is well resourced and enticing. Ensure that you only use edible ingredients as babies explore with their mouths!

As the children get a bit older you can add laminated pictures of bones or vegetation for the children to extract with tweezers to explore what the dinosaur has been eating. Then they can discuss if the dinosaur is a herbivore or a carnivore.



Provision ideas

Foot painting and hand painting

Paint the babies' hands or feet or both! Using large pieces of paper on the floor let children stomp like a dinosaur or crawl like a dinosaur across the paper leaving a trail behind them.

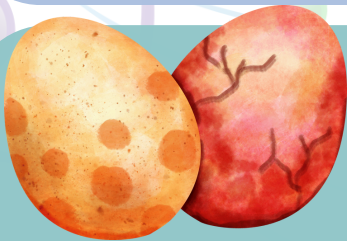
Make sure you are holding the babies carefully and firmly as painty feet can be slippery!

Provision Ideas

Let's make a Stegosaurus

Using pre-cut out templates of a Stegosaurus but without its spikes, (you could use half a paper plate) firstly ask the babies to colour the cut out in with large crayons or paint it with easy to grip brushes. Then to help to develop their hand eye co-ordination and their hand muscles ask them to use clothes pegs to make the spikes on the dinosaurs' backs. They will need to use the pincer grip to open and close the clothes pegs.

Babies could take this home to talk about with their parents - they will learn a new dinosaur name.



Provision Ideas Dinosaur Dance



Using the stegosaurus made in the previous activity play some dinosaur music and ask the children to move their dinosaurs along to the music. They can either wave it in the air or more mobile children can walk and stomp around.

You might want to use this song [Dinosaur Song - CBeebies](#) but there are many others to choose from.

We'd love to hear about other ways you have enhanced your provision!
Please send photos into earlyyears@buckinghamshire.gov.uk and/or share on your socials #chatplayreadbucks

Remember to check children's photo permissions before submitting.

Parental Engagement

How are you going to engage your families with Communication Week? Can you think of interactive challenges/events etc that will promote Communication and Language opportunities at home?

Some ideas:

During communication week why not challenge parents to read a new story to their baby every day. Give them some ideas of appropriate book titles, for example, any title from the That's not my series. You might suggest That's not my dinosaur or That's not my T.Rex..., or Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell.

Colourful pictures will help bring the story to life, and board or cloth books are more durable for young babies and less likely to be damaged. Emphasise how babies will love to be close to their parent whilst being read to, as this is good for their personal, social and emotional wellbeing and development.

Let parents know that for very young babies and children it isn't necessary to read the entire book. Just read one or two pages and when singing just sing one or two verses.



National Year of
Reading 2026

The National Year of Reading 2026 is here to make that easier, offering simple, playful ideas to build stories and books into your everyday activities and routines.

[Early years settings | National Year of Reading 2026](#)



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a belief in the best start for children*