Title: Play Dough Fossils

Recommended for: elders and children 2-5 years
Length of activity: 30 minutes
Suggested group size: 3-4 IG pairs

Objectives:
Children
- Attention to detail
- Sensory Development
- Engagement

Adults
- Creativity
- Engagement
- Positive mood
- Sensory integration

Materials Needed:
- Play dough
- Dinosaur, fish, or animal figurines
- Branches, leaves, stones, etc.

Methods

Facilitator Preparation
1. Purchase any items needed for activity (figurines, play dough).
2. Collect branches, stones and leaves if you plan to use these items.
   a. Option: let adults and/or children help in collecting these items outside.
3. Cover your workstation with newspaper
4. Place play dough colors and figurines in the middle of the activity table.

Intergenerational Participants
1. Introduction-pair each older adult with a child and sing the hello song.
2. Learn about fossils and discuss experiences with fossils
3. Pairs create fossils together
   a. Important to encourage pairs to work together on one fossil rather than making their own.
4. Use facilitating questions to encourage discussion within IG pairs of experiences with fossils, animals, leaves and nature.
5. Older adults, children, and facilitators hold hands and sing the goodbye song.

Best Practices

Best Practice 1: Staff members of adult and child programs collaborate to plan activities.
Best Practice 2: Participants are involved in decision making about the activity.
Best Practice 3: Participation is voluntary.
Best Practice 4: Participants are prepared ahead of time and reflect on activities afterwards.
Best Practice 5: Activities reflect participants’ interests, backgrounds, and social histories.
Best Practice 6: Activities are age and role appropriate.
Best Practice 7: Activities support interaction among intergenerational partners.
Best Practice 8: Facilitators skillfully stage the environment to promote interaction.
Best Practice 9: Facilitators consider the social environment and the role of staff members.
Best Practice 10: Adaptive equipment is used as appropriate.
Best Practice 11: Experiences are documented and communicated to varied resources to build upon in future activities.

Objectives:
Children
- Attention to detail
- Sensory Development
- Engagement

Materials Needed:
- Play dough
- Dinosaur, fish, or animal figurines
- Branches, leaves, stones, etc.
Special Considerations
• Make gloves available for participants that prefer not to touch the play dough directly

Getting To Know You
• Ask children and elders to discuss what types of fossils they made and where they could be found.
• Talk to your partner about nature and things you find or explore while playing outside.
• Share fossils with the group!

Encouraging Interaction
• Invite children and elders to discuss things they like about nature, dinosaurs, animals, etc.
• “______ ask ______ to help you flatten your play dough”
• “_____ does your partner have a favorite dinosaur?”

Enrichment Opportunities
• For a more permanent fossil try: Salt Dough Fossils
• “The Dinosaur Stomp”—a song and dance about dinosaurs
• Making dinosaur masks and dinosaur feet

Technology Opportunities
• Website for activity: http://www.naturallyeducational.com/2013/03/create-your-own-dinosaur-fossils/