

Earnestine is beyond excited to go on her first camping trip! She follows the packing list carefully and knows she's ready, but quickly realizes nothing could have prepared her for how hard it is to set up a tent (never mind falling asleep in it!) or that swimming in a lake meant swimming with fish - yikes! The Camping Trip by Jennifer K. Mann reminds us that new experiences, however challenging, can lead to great memories.

THE SET UP

Build up some hype about this unit by telling your students about a camping day or week coming soon. For some of your children, camping may need some background information. **Read with them everything you can about camping.** Then, brainstorm with the class a list of items you may need for this adventure and what activities you would like to do while "camping." If needed, ask parents if they have any camping necessities they could lend the class for the unit. It doesn't take much beyond your imagination to enjoy this theme with your students!

Day 1

DRAMATIC PLAY will be the hub for the camping theme. There are so many benefits for children when quality time is spent here. It boost **creativity**, enhances **coordination**, elevates **communication skills and math learning**, develops **focus**, and nurtures **social skills**.

1. First job on a campsite is to set up a tent. Yours can be a real tent, a blanket over a table or butcher paper on the wall.
2. A good campsite needs a fire. Decide if you'll make it out of real wood, blocks or paper towel rolls. Dismantle it each afternoon and provide different materials for the children to build another each day.
3. Explore! Get to know your campsite let the kids play with the new props available in the center. Some suggestions are: maps, backpacks, flashlights, cooking utensils, play food (construction paper rolled up as hot dogs, cardboard graham crackers and cotton ball marshmallows), nets, binoculars, compass, first aid kit.



Day 2

Gone Fishing: Cut out and laminate the fish at the end of the end of this document. Tape a paperclip to the back side of each one. You will also need to create a fishing rod with a dowel, string, magnet and a glue gun as shown here: <https://mindymakes.com/diy-magnetic-fishing-game-for-kids-with-fishing-pole-and-fish/>



To play, make a pond out of blue butcher paper, a blue towel/sheet, or use a plastic baby pool. Put the fish in the “pond” picture side down and white side with paper clip up. Children take turns fishing, collecting fish one of several ways:

1. by color (easiest)
2. by number (all the 1's, all the 2's... each set of numbers has rhyming sets)
3. a number set (1,2,3,4,5,6)
4. by rhymes

For rhymes, a child gets a fish on each turn on the lookout for a rhyming pair. If their opponent has one they need, a trade can be made. One with most rhyming pairs wins!

Day 3

Take a Hike: What’s a camping trip without a little exploring?! Give each student a bag to collect treasures and head outside for a nature walk. Encourage them to look for items that may be beautiful, colorful, unique or even strange. If you have binoculars at your campsite or a net, you might want to bring them along.

Binoculars can be easily made by cutting a paper towel roll in half and attaching the halves with a cardboard nose piece adding some yarn to hang them around your neck.



Once your class has found some treasures, return to the classroom and begin to sort your items by category, color, size and/or number. When the items have been grouped, show the children how to organize the objects in a graph formation so they can **analyze the data** - in other words, see the amounts of more, less and the same without counting. Leave these items out for investigation with magnifying glasses.

Day 4

Camp Crafting: Let’s make some of the things we might need at our campsite!

Lanterns - Have children decorate small plastic cups with paint. When dry, punch a two holes on either side of the top of the cup and attach a pipe cleaner handle. Place a battery powered votive in the cup and each child will have their own lantern.

Marshmallow Painting - Attach large and small marshmallows to the end of a few skewers and let your students try their...

Day 5

Nighttime at the Campsite: Some of the best parts of camping happen at night, so be sure to wrap up your camping theme with a “night” at the campsite. Have the children bring in sleeping bags if they’d like. Turn the lights off and read books with flashlights. Add battery powered twinkle lights to your campfire and take turns telling stories sitting around it. (Tacky Goes to Camp by Helen Lester as a good example of this!) And no evening around the campfire is complete without making s’mores.

Day 4 (cont.)

...hand at making art with these unique tools. Bring attention to the different marks the different sizes make. Encourage them to try stamping with them. Offer only red, yellow and blue paint so color blending can be observed as well.

Sun Fading Art - Use what nature provides and use the sun to complete this project. Gather all of your magnetic and foam letters as well as some construction paper and head outside for this project. Each child will select a sheet of paper and the letters in their name. Place the paper flat on the ground in a sunny spot and spell out their name with the letters on the paper. Add leaves, flowers, sticks or other flat bits that could make a print on the paper. (Don't try this on a windy day!) After a few hours the sun will fade the paper leaving a print of the objects left on top. **(Note:** This may have to be done in shifts if you don't have enough letters to spell everyone's name at once. This is a good time of year to stock up on magnetic letter sets from Target or Dollar Tree!)



Day 5 (cont.)

Even though the campfire is not real and you're pretending it is night, doesn't mean you can't use the sun to make the s'mores in a SOLAR OVEN!

Supplies: pizza box (new or gently used), saran wrap, foil, piece of laminate or other plastic cover, black construction paper, dowel or ruler for propping the window, box cutter, tape, graham crackers, marshmallows and chocolate

Instructions: Create a flap on the box top by cutting 3 sides of a square. Cover the flap with foil. Line the inside of the box with foil as well. Tape the clear plastic or laminate over the opening you've made. Center a black piece of construction paper the bottom of the box where the pizza would sit. This will be the oven's heat core. Place a prepared smore on a small square of foil like a tray and put it on the black bottom. Close the box and prop the foil flap with dowel/stick/ruler. Put the oven outside where it will get full, direct sun for about 30 minutes. When the marshmallow is soft, it is ready to eat!



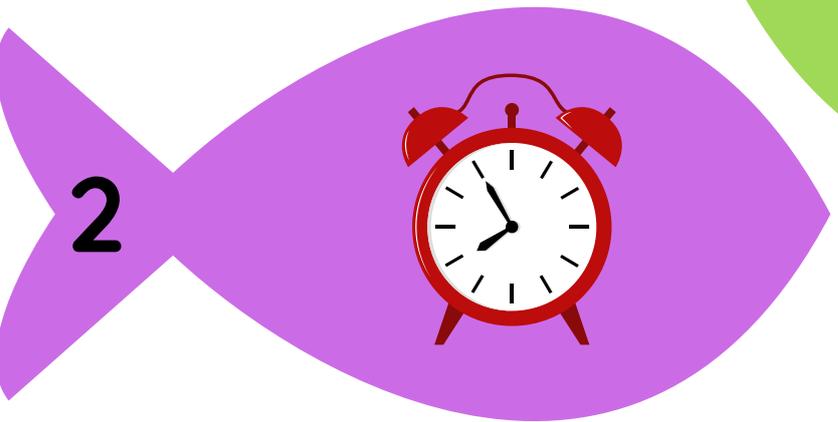
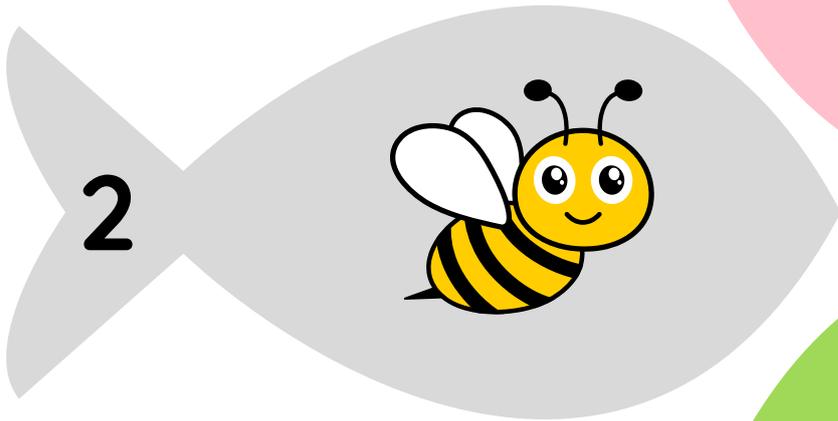
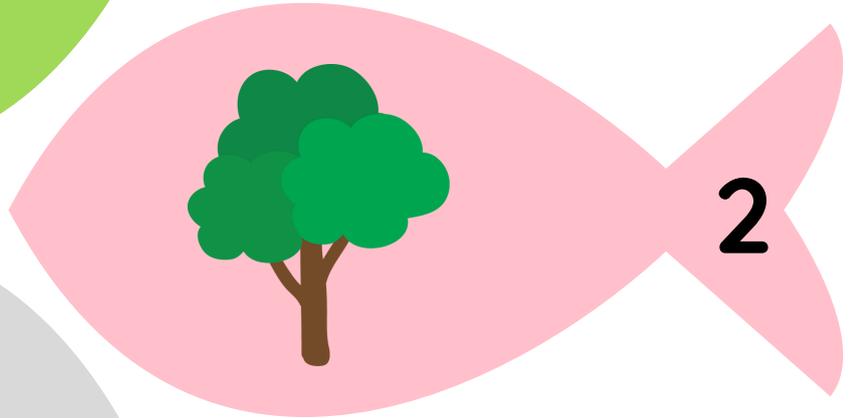
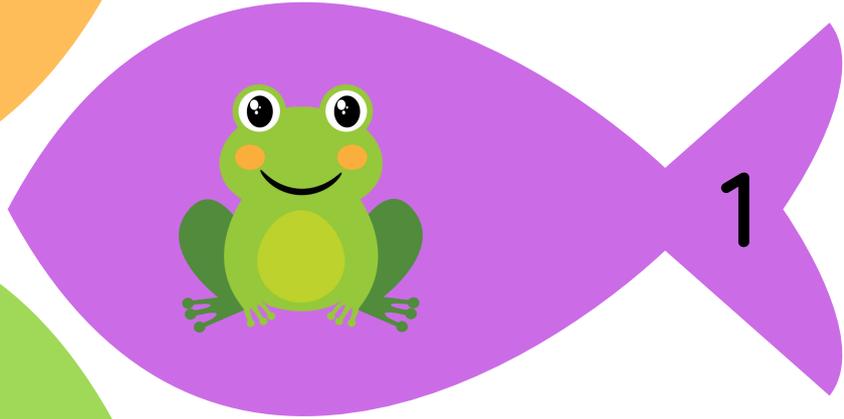
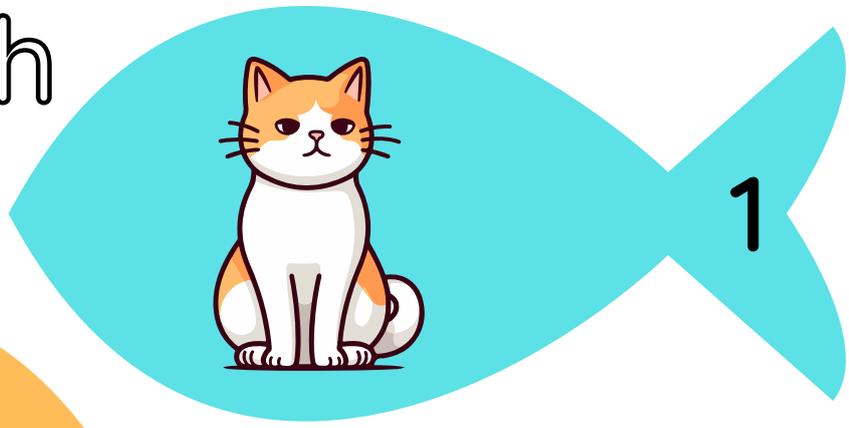
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Where to next?

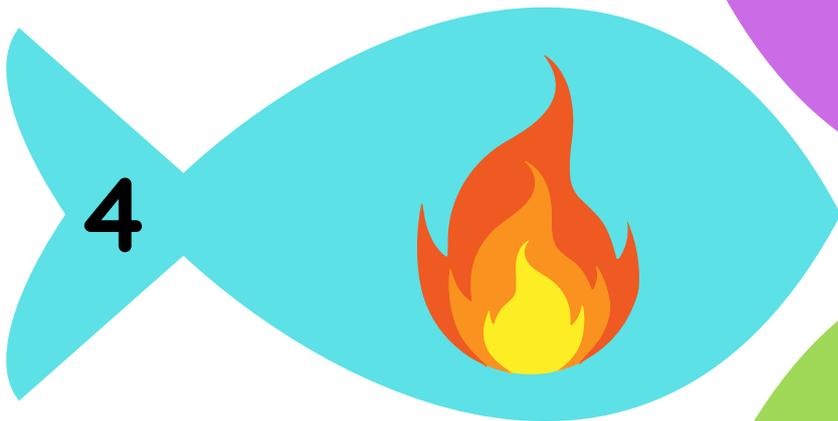
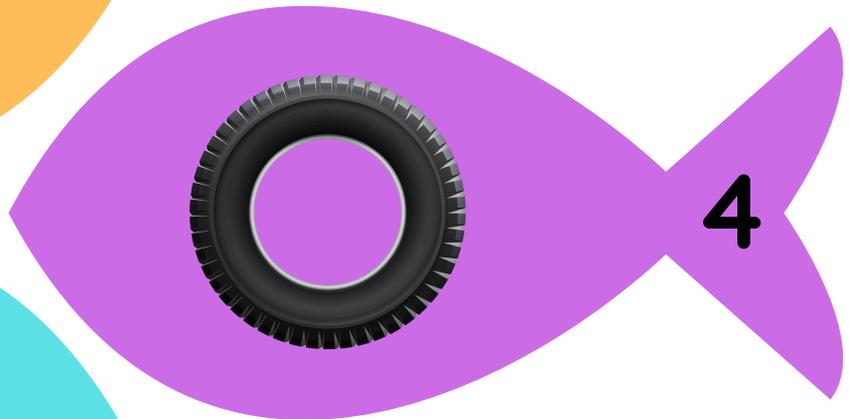
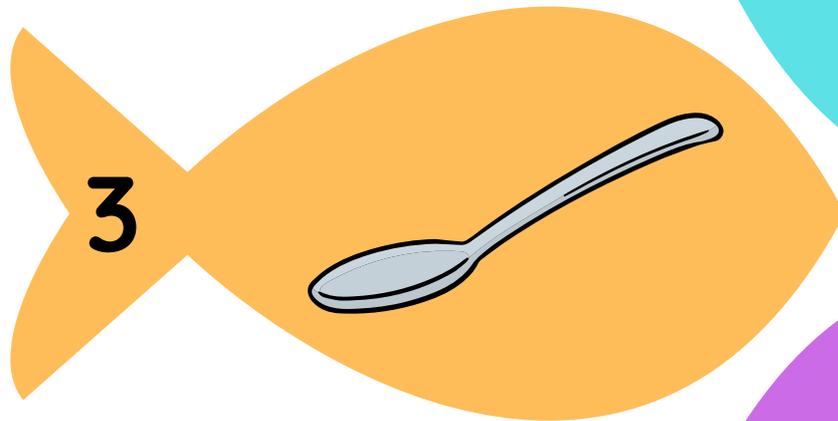
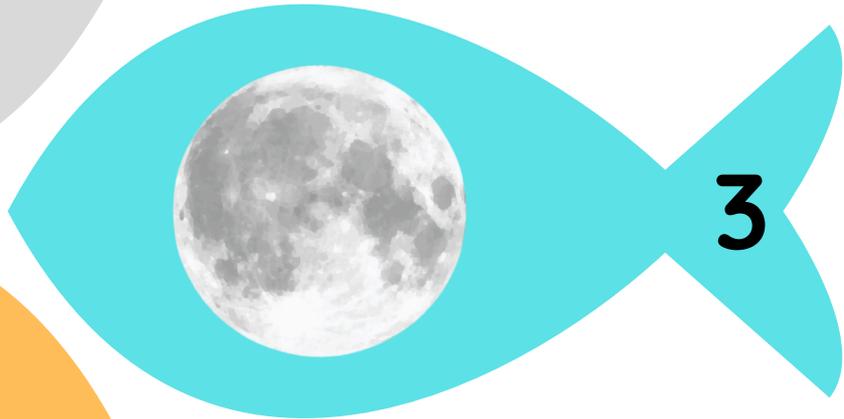
Click the link below to find more camping books available at NPL.

<https://catalog.library.nashville.org/MyAccount/MyList/92162>

Rhyming Fish



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