

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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Dino's Don't Exist

(Lemniscaat)

Brothers Tim and Jesse are out hunting. Well, the braver older brother is just pretending, but the younger takes it all very seriously – and rightly so! He sees everything his older brother doesn't. When his older brother cries out that “dinos don't exist!” to reassure his little brother, it turns out that nothing is what it appears to be. Big, dangerous dinos are everywhere!

Get ready to get scared with Dinos don't Exist. Grab your torch, collect your wits, and go on an adventure!



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ADVENTURE IN THE FOREST

The children are going outside, looking for dinosaurs in the forest.

Prepare eight (large) toy figures of dinosaurs and hide them in a piece of forest that's not too wild. Distribute the dinosaurs along the path. Place the required materials for each game at the side of the dinosaurs, or bring them along in a bag.

Read the book *Dinos don't Exist* to the children. After that, the children go looking for dinosaurs in the forest, torch in hand, like Tim and Jesse.

Each time they find a dinosaur, they play a game.

1 – Swinging tails

Requirements: ribbons

Dinosaurs have long tails. They like to play by chasing each other's tails. Give each child a dinosaur tail (ribbon). The children tuck the tails into the back of their trousers. The children are dinosaurs and try to grab each other's tail and pull it out of their trousers. Who can collect the largest number of tails?

2 – Dinosaur eggs

Requirements: plastic eggs that can be opened and small objects to hide in the eggs; two of each object, e.g. pebbles, pine cones, acorns, chestnuts, beech nuts, moss or twigs.

Preparation: fill pairs of eggs with the same contents.

The dinosaurs have laid eggs. What could be inside them?

Ask the children to sit in a circle and place the eggs in the middle. This is the dinosaur nest. The children take turns opening two eggs. They all take a good look at what's inside. If the contents are the same, the eggs are set aside. If they are not, the eggs are closed again. Continue until all objects have been paired.

Variation: place the eggs in a row a little distance away.

Create two groups. The first child of the first group goes to the eggs and opens two. If the contents are the same, the child takes the eggs back to the group. If not, they close the eggs again, then return to their group. They tell their group what they saw. Now it's the turn of the first child of the second group to open two eggs. The game continues in this way. Which group can collect the largest number of eggs?

3 – Dinosaur noises

Pair the children off. One child of each pair closes his/her eyes while the other hides behind a tree. The children open their eyes. They remain with you.

At your sign, the hidden children make a dinosaur sound. It is up to them to decide what that sounds like. The children with you listen closely and try to find their buddy as quickly as possible by listening to the voice of their buddy. When all dinosaurs have been found, the pairs switch roles.

4 – The egg thief

Requirements: (toy) egg

A dinosaur has laid an egg. The other dinosaurs are jealous. They'd like to have a such pretty egg for themselves.

Sit in a circle. Ask a child – the dinosaur – to come sit in the middle and place the egg behind them. Then point to a child, who quietly approaches the dinosaur and tries to take the egg. If they succeed, they tiptoe back to their spot and sit down. The egg has been stolen! If the dinosaur hears the thief, they point in the direction of that child and make a roaring noise. The thief has been caught, and their attempt has been foiled!

5 – Dino race

Requirements: chalk, smartphone or stopwatch

Preparation: Create a course through the forest, e.g. by marking trees with coloured chalk.

The dinosaurs chase each other through the forest. Show the children the course by walking through it together. Then, the children complete the course one by one, as quickly as possible. If you want, you can record their times.

Vary by creating two groups and having them race each other. Two children leave at the same time. When they return they tag the next child, who may leave immediately. Which group completes the course first?

6 – Sharp teeth

Requirements: ten triangles cut out of white paper marked with the numbers one through ten.

Preparation: Hide each of the triangles behind a tree, preferably around a clearing in the forest.

The dinosaurs have sharp teeth. Sometimes, they lose one. You can even find them in the forest! Tell the children that they may hunt for the dinosaur teeth. One by one, they may look behind a tree. The first child goes looking for a tooth and looks at the number on it. If it is number one, they take the tooth back to the group. If it is a different number, they leave the tooth and tell the group what they have seen. The group collects the teeth in numerical order.

7 – Steam

Requirements: light balls, e.g. table tennis balls

When the dinosaurs are angry, they blow steam from their nose. Use a stick to draw two lines that mark the start and the end points. Give each child a ball. They pretend that they are an angry dinosaur and blow against the ball (using their mouth or nose), trying to make it roll from one line all the way to the other.

8 – Sharp spines

Requirements: ten marker cones

Preparation: place the marker cones some distance apart. These are the spines on the dinosaur's back.

Tell the children that they are walking across a dinosaur's back. They have to walk quietly so that the dinosaur doesn't wake up. Are they brave enough to do so? The children take turns to weave through the cones. When they have reached the end, they walk back and tag the next child. All dinosaurs have been found and the games have been played. Fortunately, the dinosaurs in the forest won't be coming back to life. They can be taken back home or to school, where the children can play with them.

Lesson suggestions written by Anke van Boxmeer and Els van Dijck