

Presents

NATURE PLAY

DIY Guides to the popular Starting Out Wild and Growing Up Wild Programs

DEER, OH DEER

Lesson Plan

1. Gather – Hello Song
2. Learn – What Do Deer Need?
3. Think – What's the Difference?
4. Sing – Deer Have Needs
5. Move – Talk like a Deer
6. Walk – Walk around outside, play eye-spy. Count what you see.
7. Create – Make Your Own Antlers
8. Snack – Look at the foods in your kitchen— What would deer eat?
9. End – Goodbye Song

PREPARATION

You can do this activity anywhere, but if you can, try to find an area outside where you have seen deer before. This can be your yard, a walk around your neighborhood, or a trip to a nearby park.

Before starting, take time to make sure the area is safe, check for poisonous plants or wildlife that you might want to keep your distance from.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Sticks or small fallen branches
- String or ribbon (even a shoelace will do)

SNACK

Gather the supplies to eat a snack before engaging in this activity so they are ready when you get to them. Plan to talk about how some foods come from flowers.

Snack Ingredients

- Bread
- Peanut or sunflower butter
- Raisins
- Pretzels

TARGETS

- Deer need food, water and a place to live.
- We have special names for mommy, daddy and baby deer.
- Deer have *antlers* and *hooves*.

VOCABULARY WORDS

Stag or Buck

A male deer

Doe

A female deer

Fawn

A baby deer

Shelter

A safe place to protect the animal from predators, rain, cold, and heat.

Antlers

Antlers are made of bone and fall off each year.

Horns

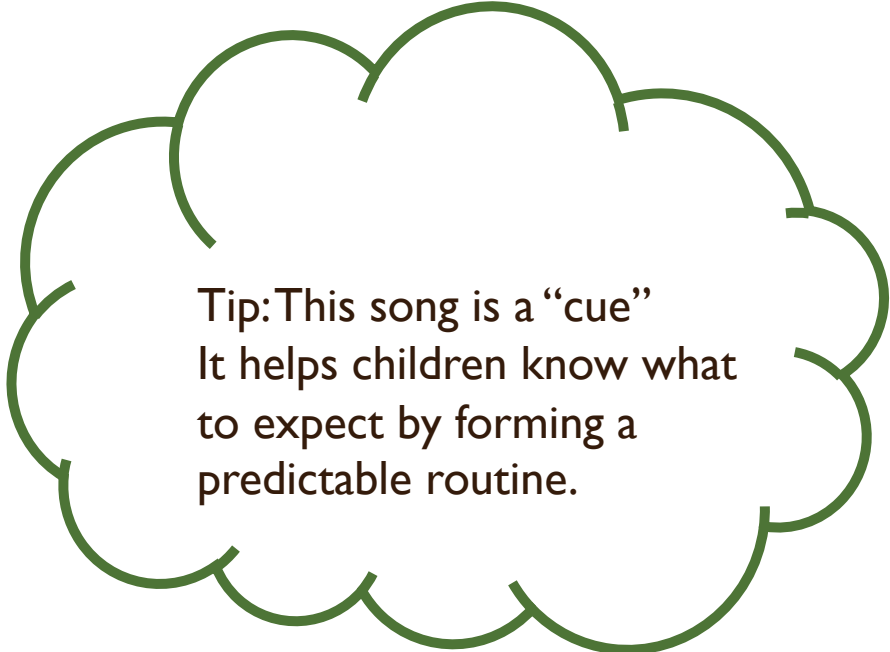
Horns are made of keratin like fingernails and do not fall off.



HELLO SONG!

Sing to the tune of "Goodnight Ladies"

Hello children
I see you
I'm very happy
To see you
Greet your neighbor
Boogie on down
Give a clap and
Turn around.



Tip: This song is a "cue"
It helps children know what
to expect by forming a
predictable routine.



LEARN

WHAT DO DEER NEED?

Deer and all animals need

**FOOD,
WATER,
SHELTER &
SPACE**

to stay alive.

They need to eat to grow and have energy. They need water to stay healthy.

They need a place to live where they can hide and move around.

There must be enough space so all the deer can eat and drink and hide.

LET'S PRETEND

Let's make a roof (hands together over head) to be the "house" for the deer.

Let's make some food (rub tummy yummy) to feed the deer.

Let's make some water (cupped hand to mouth) so the deer can drink.

Facts

- Deer can live in forests, or deserts or farmlands and sometimes in parts of cities.
- Deer need water. (slurp)
- Deer need a place to shelter. (hands make roof over head)
- Deer need food. (chew)
- Deer need space. (wave arms about).



READ

ANTLERS AND HORNS

Tip: use gestures to get your child involved

Antlers are made of bone and fall off each year.

(point to the bones in your arm or leg)

Horns are made of keratin like fingernails and do not fall off.

(touch your fingernails)

Who has antlers?

Deer

Moose

Elk

Who has horns?

Goats

Sheep

Rhinos



SING

Sing to the tune of: "Darling Clementine"

Deer need food (point to tummy)
and deer need water, (pretend to drink)
deer need shelter (make roof over head)
and space too. (arms sweep sides)

(hands together)

They need all these things together
(point to each other)
so they live like me and you!



MOVE

HOW DO DEER COMMUNICATE?

Deer show how they feel by prancing or bouncing around, kicking and *pawing* or stomping with their hooves.

You can be a deer

First prance like deer, then grunt, and then stomp your hooves (feet) like a deer.

Give a warning call and lift your tail

Put your hands behind your back and point your fingers up like a pretend tail, then run and jump.

Tip: Act out the movement cues as you read the sentence. Don't be afraid to be silly. Your child look to you to model how the world works. Teach them it is ok to play and have fun by showing them you can play and have fun.



WALK

SEARCH FOR SIGNS OF DEER

- Take a walk around your house, neighborhood, or nearby park and look for places where deer might hide (brush) and find food (grass and flowers).
- Look for plants squashed down that might be deer paths or resting places.

I SPY

Play a game of I spy and spy different foods that deer might eat.

“I spy, with my little eye, something _____”

Some suggestions:

- *“I spy, with my little eye a leafy green deer snack”*
- *something pink*
- *something small*

COUNT

As you look for food that a deer might eat, count what you see.

- How many tufts of grass are there?
- How many leaves?
- How many flowers are blooming?



CREATE

ANTLERS NATURE ART

1. **Forage around your yard to find some fallen branches. (Small ones will work just fine!)**
2. **Take time to pick out your antlers and talk to your child about what makes a good antler.**
 - a) **Is it size?**
 - b) **Or shape?**
 - c) **Or how pointy it is?**
3. **Find a ribbon or some string and measure out the size of their head, and leave enough length for the string to go down to their midback, then cut to the correct size (or tie several strings together to get the length).**
4. **Measure on the string the distance between one ear to the other when the string is rapped around their head.**
5. **At those two points, tie the string around the sticks you collected.**
6. **Place the string with antlers on the child's head and tie in the back.**
7. **(the smaller the sticks, the better this will work.)**

Tip: Don't stress about getting it "right" the process of creating is the most important step.

Getting your child to talk about what they are doing as they create is the key.



SNACK

Tip: Invite them to help you arrange the parts of the deer face on the bread. Talk about the parts of the deer's face as you put down antlers, eyes, and nose.

DEER FACE

1. Cut a triangle slice of bread
2. Spread with peanut or sunflower butter
3. Add pretzel stick antlers and raisin eyes and nose, or use deer leafy and berry foods.
4. Enjoy!

Tip: While eating the snack, ask your child about where to find deer. What do they like to eat?

DEER FOOD

Look at the foods in your kitchen—which ones would deer eat?

Deer Eat:

Grass
Flowers plants
Acorns
Fruit
Corn
Mushrooms

Deer Do Not Eat:

Eggs
Milk
Cheese
Meat



GOODBYE SONG!

Sing to the tune of "Goodnight Ladies"

(wave to everyone while singing)

Goodbye, my friends (x3)

It's time to say goodbye

(blow pretend kisses at each other)

Blow kisses, my friends (x3)

It's time to say goodbye!

(stand up and bow to each other)

Bow to my friends (x3)

It's time to say goodbye!

Good bye!!!

Tip: This song is a "cue"
It helps children know what to expect
by forming a predictable routine.