



Timothy Tiger's Teaching Tips!

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These lessons are from the Zoo-phonics *"Adventures in Learning...a Veritable Smorgasbord of Ideas!" Teaching Manual and Lesson Plans. These activities demonstrate the exciting adventures you and your children can have through Zoo-phonics. Remember, you don't have to do all the activities. Pick! Choose! Modify for all your students (young, ESL, special needs, gifted) so you have high student success!*

The focus of the following lessons is the short letter sound, /a/.

The theme is "admiring others." To admire someone is to respect and appreciate him or her. Have children share all week things they like about each other. Have children pronounce the word, "admire." Clap out the syllables, "ad – mire."

Phonemic Awareness

1. Practice the "a – z's" with the *Large Animal Cards*.
2. Put them into alphabetical order. Sing, "Come Meet Us at the Zoo" to help children with order.
3. Listen to these words: allie alligator, acting, afternoon, add, adventure, math, cap. Where is the /a/ sound in each word? Write these words on chart paper or the board. Put an apple around each "a." Tune those ears to hear/perceive the short /a/ sound in words.

For those ready for a phonics challenge: Build these words with the *Large Picture Cards*: ad, bad, cad, dad, fad, had, lad, mad, sad, glad. What two animal letters are in each of these words? "ad."

Literature

1. Read *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina. Ask children to make predictions on what the monkeys will do. How will the man solve his problem? Acept all answers!
2. Read the Mother Goose rhyme, "Jack Be Nimble." Have your children jump over a candlestick! Which words rhyme? (quick – candlestick). Signal/Sound out the initial sounds in key words (Jack, be, nimble, quick, jump, candlestick).

Math

Flatten 17 coffee filters out and use them as hats. Dye 4 black, 4 red, 4 tan and 4 gray. (Water colors work well!). Draw lines on the last one to make the man's checkered hat. Do "hat" math: If the man has 5 hats and the monkeys steal 3 of them, how many hats does the man have left? *That's subtraction.* If the man has 4 hats and gets 5 hats back from the monkeys, how many hats does he have now? *That's addition.* Use math terms with your students.

Sensory Motor and Drama - Act out the *Caps For Sale* story. Have one children be the hat seller and the rest be the monkeys. Use your math hats as props. Wash red, yellow and green apples. Provide several tubs of warm water and scrub the apples with brushes. Rinse them well. Hand out soft rags and have children polish them until they shine. As they do this, read the story of Johnny Appleseed to your students.

Snacks - Enjoy apples, applesauce, bananas (look at all those “a’s.” They don’t all have the /a/ sound, though. Tell your students that allie alligator is such a “hard worker,” that she makes lots of sounds! Enjoy some recipes from Africa! Eat ham and jam!

Psycho Motor - Act like animals. Scurry like ants. Ambles like anteaters looking for ants. Do back bends!

Science – Scientists ask and answer questions. They are interested in all things! Learn facts about alligators. Teach “animal atttributes.”

Social Studies/Communication – Look for Africa on the map or globe. Discover interesting facts about Africa! Write this word on the board. Draw an apple around the “a.”

Art – Do allie alligator’s “*How to Draw*” page. Discover the color “amber.” Stamp with apples! Make fancy fans from Japan.

Music – Locate and listen to the classical music by Handel. Write this famous name on chart paper or the board and put an apple around the “a.” Say the name again and really streeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeetch out the /a/ sound in Handel! “Haaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaanel.” Have children clap out the syllables! Listen to music from Africa. Learn our National Anthem.

Health and Grooming – Learn how to wash hands with anti-bacterial soap! How do anti-biotics help us when we are sick? Teach children how to put Band Aids™ on cuts after they wash it.