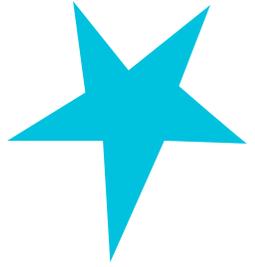


CEREAL BOX AQUARIUM



DETAILS

Use an empty cereal box, or other cardboard box you have on hand, to make a pretend aquarium.

Cut a rectangle opening to serve as a viewing window into your aquarium. (If you have dry good boxes with an opening and plastic window already built into them, these work particularly well. Shoe boxes also require no cutting of cardboard.)

Depending on your child's age and skillset, cut or have your child use safe scissors to cut different sized fish shapes out of white paper. Have your child color the fish a variety of colors.

Color white paper with blue "ocean" or use blue construction paper to serve as a background for your aquarium. Glue or tape your blue background to the inside of the box opposite your viewing window.

Attach the fish onto the blue background and have fun watching them "swim," while counting them and talking about their different sizes and colors. Younger children will enjoy counting and talking about the sizes and colors of the fish again and again. With older children, you can also measure and graph the fish according to their colors and sizes.

BENEFITS

This easy and engaging activity can foster several important academic skills and knowledge-sets. It can also be used successfully with children of varying ages.

Benefits include:

- Encouraging imaginative play
- Promoting understanding of relative size
- Promoting knowledge of different colors
- Helping build fine motor skills
- Creating opportunities for stepwise procedural problem solving
- Counting the fish is useful in supporting understanding of numeracy and one-to-one correspondence in young children
- Measuring and graphing is useful in helping build knowledge of patterns and functions in mathematics for older children.

