



# Frogs & Toads Theme

Children always seem to be fascinated by these little creatures. Seeing them again in the spring after a long winter is sure to spark interest in them, making it a perfect time to study the bouncy critters.

## Language & Literacy

### Books

#### **Frog and Toad are Friends**

by Arnold Lobel

#### **The Wide Mouthed Frog**

by Keith Faulkner

#### **A Frog in the Bog**

by Karma Wilson

#### **How a Tadpole Grows Into a Frog**

by David Stewart

#### **The Icky Sticky Frog**

by Dawn Bentley

#### **Dig, Wait, Listen: A Desert Toad's Tale**

by April Pulley Sayre

### Songs, Poems, & Finger-plays

#### **Gung Gung Went the Little Green Frog**

Gung gung went the little green frog one day,  
Gung, gung went the little green frog.  
Gung, gung went the little green frog one day,  
and his eyes went eeh, eeh, gung!

#### **Five Green and Speckled Frogs**

*Five green and speckled frogs,  
Sat on a speckled log  
Eating the most delicious bugs, yum yum.  
One frog jumped in the pool,  
Where the water's nice and cool,  
Now there are four green speckled frogs.  
Four green and speckled frogs...*

Cut five green frogs from felt to use on the felt board with this rhyme. Print number words on the frogs. Invite the children to take them down one at a time as you sing the song.

### Activities

**Frog Puppet:** Purchase or make one! Take out your puppet and read some of the *Froggy* books by Jonathan London to the kids! They are great fun!

**Frog and Owl Puppets:** to go along with the song ... "There Once was a Little Green Frog"

*Supplies:* Pictures of owls and frogs, either clip art or maybe out of a magazine what ever works, pop-sickle sticks, glue.

*Directions:* Glue the owl and frog pictures to the pop-sickle sticks and then have a ball singing the song and acting it out with the puppets!

**Frog & Toad Comparison:** Show the kids the word **amphibian** written on a piece of paper. Share with them that the word amphibian means "two lives". Tell them frogs and toads are amphibians because they live part of their life in water as tadpoles and part of their lives on land as frogs and toads. Talk about what frogs and toads look like, how are they alike, and different. Look at pictures to compare and contrast them.

### **Math & Number Concepts**

**Frog Count:** Stamp a frog pond picture, have out paper with lily pads and a pond drawn on it have the kids add frogs and toads to the pictures using rubber stamps. Count the number of frogs in everyone's pond.

**Frog Lily Pad Number Match:** Make a number matching game using frog die cuts and lily pads cut from green construction paper or fun foam. Program the frogs with numbers and the lily pads with number words and have the kids match the frogs to the correct lily pad. To make it easier glue on small flowers or use flower stickers to provide counters for kids who don't know all their number words yet. So for example on the lily pad with the word "three" on it you would include three flower stickers etc. so the child could count them and know that it says three.

### **Art**

#### **Finger Paint Frogs**

*Supplies:* Green Finger Paint, yellow finger paint, freezer wrap, yarn, newspaper or scratch paper, stapler, scissors.

*Directions:* Draw a large (simple) frog shape on two pieces of freezer wrap per child. Have the kids finger paint with green paint and encourage them to fill in the whole frog! Going out of the lines is fine!!! Each child should paint two frogs. Help the children cut out their frogs. Kids can then staple the two frog shapes together painted sides out (with your assistance) leaving a whole to stuff the frog with paper. Then let the kids stuff scratch paper or newspaper into the frog and staple closed. Attach yarn to hang them from.

#### **Paper Plate Frogs**

*Supplies:* Green paper plates or regular paper plates and green crayons markers or paint, green construction paper strips, red construction paper strips, cotton balls, and either wiggly eyes or some black construction paper circles

(paper punched out works well), glue.

*Directions:* Have the children color or paint their plates green if you do not use green paper plates. Fold the plate in half. Glue cotton balls on one side of the paper plate in the middle of the plate for the frog's eyes. Glue wiggly eyes or black circles on the center of each cotton ball to complete the eye. Fold four of the green strips of paper accordion style to make legs for the frog and glue them to the frog body. Show the children how to roll the red strip of paper on a pencil to make the frog tongue, and then glue it in the mouth of the frog.

### **Dramatic Play**

Add some stuffed frog animals to the dramatic play area.

### **Music & Movement**

**Lily Pad Hop:** Play it like cooperative musical chairs, set lily pad shapes out on the floor that were cut from green paper or material, and instruct the children to swim around them until the music stops. When the music stops they need to hop on a lily pad. Remove the lily pads one at a time and instruct the children to share the remaining lily pads. They have to work together to find a way to get everyone to be at least touching the last lily pad in the end.

### **Science & Sensory**

**Frog Life Cycle:** Show the kids a picture or poster of the frog life cycle. Talk about the different stages and things like how the tadpole lives in the water and how it changes, and then look at the frog and where it lives ... on land. There are all kinds of props you can find to use with this activity, puzzles of the life cycle, plastic frog life cycle toys, picture sequence cards... etc.

**Green Play Dough:** Add some frog cookie cutter shapes if you have them too!

### **Blocks & Building**

Add plastic frogs to the area.

### **Technology**

**Frog Life Cycle Video-** <http://www.turtlediary.com/video/frog-life-cycle.html>

### **Cooking & Snacks**

**Frogs in the Pond!** Make some Jell-O (or pudding would work too) for the pond (grape works good!) pour into individual clear plastic cups, on top add some blobs of green whip cream (food coloring added to whip cream) and place gummy frogs on each blob (whip cream is the lily pad) add some flower sprinkles if you have them! Kids could easily do this.

## **Bulletin Boards**

**“Preschool is a Hoppin’ Good Time”** – Post this title with examples of the kids work. Write their names on a frog shaped die cut and post it next to their work.

Write your ideas here...