

Theme: Sea-Life

Language & Literacy

Language opportunities in children's art. Children love to draw. As children express themselves artistically, use *spatial language* to engage them in telling about their drawings. "What is in the middle of the picture?" "Tell me about this part down here near the bottom." "This part up here at the top reminds me of an animal or a person. Can you tell me about this part?" By exposing preschool children to spatial terms and category names and by asking them to talk about their drawings, teachers/parents tell children that their drawings have meaning worthy of discussion. (*CA Preschool Curriculum Framework, Volume 1, Language & Literacy page 121*)

Activity: Ask your child what lives in the sea. Have your child draw a picture of things under the sea. Have them tell you about their picture and ask them questions about what they drew using spatial language. You may extend this learning by locating something in/around your house that has a connection to sea life. It could be a picture at the beach, stuffed sea life animal, shell, rock, toy boat, book/magazine with pictures of sea life, etc. Discuss why this item may relate to sea life and why? (modify as needed)

You can also follow up with music: *Baby Beluga* by Raffi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDx9zqDpSik>

*Baby beluga in the deep blue sea
Swim so wild and you swim so free
Heaven above and the sea below
And a little white whale on the go*

*Baby beluga, baby beluga
Is the water warm
Is your mama home with you, so happy*

*Way down yonder where the dolphins play
Where you dive and splash all day
Waves roll in and the waves roll out
See the water squirtin' out of your spout*

*Baby beluga, oh, baby beluga
Sing your little song
Sing for all your friends, we like to hear you*

*When it's dark, you're home and fed
Curl up, snug in your water bed
Moon is shining and the stars are out
Good night, little whale, good night*

*Baby beluga, oh, baby beluga
With tomorrow's sun, another day's begun
You'll soon be wakin'*

*Baby beluga in the deep blue sea
Swim so wild and you swim so free
Heaven above and the sea below*

*And a little white whale on the go
You're just a little white whale on the go*