**DRAMATIC PLAY**

**What to do**
1. Make a river by laying a long piece of blue paper on the floor. Place a few plastic fish on top of the paper.
2. Set up the tent and talk about the supplies needed for camping.
3. Allow small groups of two to four children to explore the tent and supplies.
4. You may want to play with the children to model what people do on camping trips.
5. Add more materials if the children seem interested.

**Related book**
*When I'm Sleepy* by Jane R. Howard

*Sandy L. Scott, Meridian, ID*

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**The Hare and the Tortoise**

**OLDER TODDLERS**

**Materials**
- rabbit puppet (or stuffed animal)
- tortoise puppet (or stuffed animal)
- other animal puppets

**What to do**
1. Tell or read “The Hare and the Tortoise” to the children. You may need to simplify the language by calling the hare a bunny and the tortoise a turtle.
2. After telling the story, invite the children to hop like bunnies. Then have them crawl like turtles on their hands and knees.
3. Encourage them to race across the room like a hare or a tortoise.
4. Let the children act out the race between the hare and the tortoise using puppets. Don’t forget the other animals cheering at the end.

**Related books**
- *The Hare and the Tortoise* by Carol Jones
- *Hare and the Tortoise* by Helen Ward
- *I Can’t Get My Turtle to Move* by Elizabeth Lee O’Donnell
- *The Tortoise and the Hare* by Janet Stevens

**Calendar Collection**

**Materials**
- Old calendars with glossy photos of animals, famous paintings, and so on
- Play phone

**What to do**
1. Put out a variety of old calendars. Introduce the children to the images on each calendar page, the numbers in each date box, and the names of the days of the week.
2. Cut up one of the calendars, separating the squares containing the dates for each day, and show the children how to put them in order on another calendar. Children this age may not recognize the numbers, but they can have fun putting the squares on top of each other.

**Story Circle Dress Up**

**Materials**
- Collection of age-appropriate, familiar stories
- Construction paper strips
- Markers
- Hat
- Circular rug
- Box of simple costumes that fit the story being told
A Tortoise and Hare decide to race. The hare is so confident in the lead that he naps while the tortoise keeps going to win. Slow and steady wins the race. Aesop For Children. Milo Winter (1919). The Hare was much amused at the idea of running a race with the Tortoise, but for the fun of the thing he agreed. So the Fox, who had consented to act as judge, marked the distance and started the runners off. The Hare was soon far out of sight, and to make the Tortoise feel very deeply how ridiculous it was for him to try a race with a Hare, he lay down beside the course to take a nap until the Tortoise should catch up. The Tortoise meanwhile kept going slowly but steadily, and, after a time, passed the place where the Hare was sleeping.