

AGES 0-8



DINOSAUR

Summer

Inspired by Dinosaur by Olivia Bosworth

ACTIVITY GUIDE

FOR PARENTS & EARLY EDUCATORS

bcdiatlanta.org

Welcome to Beyond the Book™

A great story is just the beginning.

The **Beyond the Book™ Family Literacy Activity Guide** was created by the Black Child Development Institute (BCDI)-Atlanta to help families and educators extend children's learning beyond the pages of a book through meaningful conversations, creative play, movement, exploration, and hands-on experiences.

Reading together is one of the most powerful ways to build language, strengthen literacy skills, spark imagination, and nurture a lifelong love of learning.

So read together.

Play together.

Explore together.

Create memories together.

Grow together.

Because every great story is just the beginning.



AGES 0-8

SUMMER FAMILY LITERACY SERIES

FOR PARENTS & EARLY EDUCATORS

About the Book

Dinosaur by Olivia Bosworth

Dinosaur by Olivia Bosworth is an energetic, interactive story that encourages children to move, imagine, laugh, and become active participants in the reading experience. Through playful sounds, expressive language, movement, repetition, and imaginative play, children are invited to stomp, roar, wiggle, and pretend as they journey through the story. Rather than simply listening to a story, children become active participants in the adventure.



Themes 🦖

- Imagination
- Movement
- Pretend Play
- Sound Exploration
- Curiosity
- Friendship
- Adventure
- Early Science

Literacy Skills 📖

- Vocabulary Development
- Listening Comprehension
- Oral Language
- Sequencing
- Story Retelling
- Predicting
- Descriptive Language
- Conversation Skills

Developmental Skills 🌱

- Gross Motor Development
- Fine Motor Development
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Creative Expression
- Problem Solving
- Scientific Inquiry
- Cooperation
- Self-Regulation

Before You Read

Before opening the book, help your child become excited about the adventure ahead by talking together.

Ask questions like:

- What do you already know about dinosaurs?
- Have you ever seen dinosaur bones or fossils?
- What sounds do you think a dinosaur might make?
- What do you notice on the cover?
- What do you think this story will be about?
- If you could be any dinosaur, which one would you choose?



Remember, there are no wrong answers. These conversations activate children's background knowledge, build vocabulary, encourage curiosity, and help them make predictions before reading.

Words to Grow On

Dinosaur

A large reptile that lived millions of years ago.

Fossil

The remains or imprint of a plant or animal that lived long ago.

Extinct

When a plant or animal no longer lives anywhere on Earth.

Habitat

The natural place where a plant or animal lives.

Paleontologist

A scientist who studies fossils to learn about plants and animals that lived long ago.

Roar

A loud, powerful sound made by some animals.

Stomp

To walk heavily with loud footsteps.

Imagination

Using your mind to create ideas, stories, or adventures.



Infants (0–12 Months)

Beyond the Book™ Experiences

1 Storytime Snuggles

Goal: Promote bonding, listening skills, and early language development.

Materials:

- 📖 *Dinosaur* by Olivia Bosworth
- Soft blanket
- Stuffed dinosaur (optional)

Instructions:

- Read *Dinosaur* while cuddling with your baby.
- Use exaggerated facial expressions and playful dinosaur sounds like "grumble," "gurgle," and "roar."
- Point to the pictures as you read.
- Allow your baby to touch or pat the pages.
- Pause often to encourage eye contact, smiles, sounds, or movement.

Literacy Connection: Listening to expressive reading helps infants build language, strengthen listening skills, and develop positive associations with books.

2 Dinosaur Tummy Time Reach

Goal: Encourage gross motor development and visual tracking.

Materials:

- Soft dinosaur toy
- Dinosaur pictures
- Mirror (optional)

Instructions:

- Place dinosaur toys or pictures just out of reach during tummy time.
- Encourage babies to lift their heads, reach, or roll toward the dinosaur.
- Describe what your child is seeing: "Look at the big green dinosaur!"
- Add a mirror so babies can watch themselves while reaching.

Literacy Connection: Describing pictures while babies explore builds vocabulary and strengthens early communication.



Infants (0–12 Months) cont.

Beyond the Book™ Experiences

3 Dino Sound Exploration

Goal: Develop auditory awareness and sensory exploration.

Materials:

- Rattle
- Soft shaker
- Your voice

Instructions:

- Shake the rattle while repeating dinosaur sounds from the story.
- Change your voice by making loud, soft, slow, and fast sounds.
- Pause and encourage babies to respond with coos or babbling.
- Repeat favorite sounds throughout the day.

Literacy Connection: Hearing different sounds helps infants begin recognizing patterns in spoken language.

4 Gentle Dinosaur Dance

Goal: Support bonding and rhythm awareness.

Materials:

- Soft music (optional)

Instructions:

- Hold your baby while gently swaying to music.
- Pretend you're a friendly dinosaur walking through the story.
- Slowly stomp your feet while saying "stomp, stomp, stomp."
- Clap or tap softly to the rhythm.
- Encourage babies to move their arms and legs.

Literacy Connection: Music, rhythm, and movement help strengthen language development and early listening skills.



Toddlers (1–2 Years)

Beyond the Book™ Experiences

1 Dinosaur Stomp Parade

Goal: Encourage movement, coordination, and rhythm.

Materials:

- Music
- Open space

Instructions:

- Invite toddlers to stomp like giant dinosaurs.
- Change between fast and slow stomps.
- Pretend to be tiny dinosaurs and giant dinosaurs.
- Encourage children to copy each other's movements.
- Finish with one BIG dinosaur roar together!

Literacy Connection: Movement paired with language helps toddlers connect new vocabulary to actions.

2 Feed the Dinosaur

Goal: Develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

Materials:

- Cardboard box with dinosaur mouth cut out
- Pom-poms
- Soft balls
- Large buttons (with supervision)

Instructions:

- Pretend the dinosaur is hungry.
- Feed it one item at a time.
- Count each item together.
- Ask: "What do you think the dinosaur likes to eat?"
- Celebrate every successful feeding.

Literacy Connection: Talking, counting, and pretending together builds vocabulary and oral language skills.



Toddlers (1–2 Years) cont.

Beyond the Book™ Experiences

3 Dino Sensory Bin

Goal: Encourage sensory exploration and language development.

Materials:

- Rice, sand, or shredded paper
- Toy dinosaurs
- Scoops
- Cups

Instructions:

- Hide dinosaurs inside the sensory bin.
- Encourage children to dig for dinosaurs.
- Talk about textures: "The sand feels soft." "The dinosaur is bumpy."
- Compare big dinosaurs and little dinosaurs.

Literacy Connection: Sensory play encourages descriptive language and rich conversations.

4 Dinosaur Freeze Dance

Goal: Strengthen listening skills and self-regulation.

Materials:

- Music

Instructions:

- Dance around the room like dinosaurs.
- When the music stops, everyone freezes.
- Start dancing again when the music begins.
- Invite children to take turns controlling the music.

Literacy Connection: Listening carefully and following directions are important early literacy skills.

Preschool (3–5 Years)

Beyond the Book™ Experiences

1 Create-a-Dinosaur Art

Goal: Foster creativity and descriptive language.

Materials:

- Construction paper
- Glue
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Shape cutouts

Instructions:

- Invite children to design their own dinosaur.
- Encourage them to give it a name.
- Ask: What does your dinosaur eat? Where does it live? How does it move?
- Display each child's unique creation.

Literacy Connection: Describing artwork strengthens vocabulary, storytelling, and expressive language.

2 Dinosaur Dramatic Play

Goal: Encourage imagination and social-emotional development.

Materials:

- Dinosaur masks
- Scarves
- Toy dinosaurs

Instructions:

- Pretend to become dinosaurs together.
- Move like different dinosaurs.
- Act out emotions such as happy, excited, sleepy, or frightened.
- Create your own dinosaur adventure.

Literacy Connection: Pretend play builds oral language, sequencing, and storytelling skills.



Preschool (3–5 Years) cont.

Beyond the Book™ Experiences

3 Dinosaur Egg Science

Goal: Encourage curiosity and scientific thinking.

Materials:

- Baking soda eggs
- Vinegar
- Eye droppers
- Small toy dinosaurs

Instructions:

- Place toy dinosaurs inside baking soda eggs before the activity.
- Use droppers to slowly add vinegar.
- Observe what happens.
- Talk about bubbles, fizzing, and hatching.
- Discuss how some dinosaurs hatched from eggs.

Literacy Connection: Science conversations introduce new vocabulary while encouraging children to ask questions and make observations.

4 Dino Sound Orchestra

Goal: Strengthen listening skills and sound awareness.

Materials:

- Drums
- Rhythm sticks
- Shakers
- Homemade instruments

Instructions:

- Recreate sounds from the story.
- Practice making dinosaur stomps, roars, growls, and other imaginative sounds.
- Follow simple rhythms together.
- Invite children to become the conductor.

Literacy Connection: Listening for sounds and rhythms supports phonological awareness, an important early literacy skill.



Kindergarten

Beyond the Book™ Experiences

1 Dinosaur Story Retelling

Goal: Strengthen sequencing, comprehension, and oral language skills.

Materials:

-  *Dinosaur* by Olivia Bosworth
- Story picture cards (optional)
- Puppets or toy dinosaurs

Instructions:

- Read *Dinosaur* together.
- Encourage children to retell the story using their own words.
- Ask them to describe what happened at the beginning, middle, and end.
- Invite children to use puppets or toy dinosaurs to act out their favorite part of the story.

Literacy Connection: Retelling stories strengthens comprehension, sequencing, vocabulary, and confidence in oral communication.

2 Fossil Impressions

Goal: Introduce children to fossils through hands-on exploration.

Materials:

- Playdough
- Clay
- Sand
- Toy dinosaurs
- Shells, leaves, or small natural objects

Instructions:

- Press dinosaur toys, leaves, shells, or other objects into playdough or clay.
- Carefully lift the object to reveal the imprint.
- Compare different impressions.
- Discuss how fossils help scientists learn about animals that lived long ago.

Literacy Connection: Children expand science vocabulary while making meaningful connections between informational concepts and the story.

Kindergarten cont.

Beyond the Book™ Experiences

3 Dinosaur Measurement Hunt

Goal: Strengthen early math and comparison skills.

Materials:

- Toy dinosaurs
- Linking cubes
- Ruler (optional)

Instructions:

- Measure dinosaurs using linking cubes or other classroom objects.
- Compare which dinosaur is longest, shortest, tallest, or smallest.
- Sort dinosaurs by size.
- Record measurements using drawings or simple charts.

Literacy Connection: Using descriptive vocabulary during measurement activities strengthens language development while reinforcing mathematical thinking.

4 Dinosaur Movement Patterns

Goal: Build memory, sequencing, and pattern recognition.

Materials:

- Open space.

Instructions:

- Create movement patterns such as: Stomp, stomp, clap / Roar, jump, stomp / Wiggle, stomp, freeze.
- Invite children to repeat each pattern before creating one of their own.

Literacy Connection: Recognizing and creating patterns supports sequencing skills that are important for reading and writing.



First Grade

Beyond the Book™ Experiences

1 Dinosaur Fact or Fiction?

Goal: Build critical thinking and distinguish between fiction and nonfiction.

Materials:

- Chart paper
- Markers

Instructions:

- Discuss which parts of the story are imaginary.
- Talk about real dinosaur facts.
- Create two columns labeled Fact and Fiction.
- Sort ideas from the story together.

Literacy Connection: Comparing fiction and nonfiction helps children develop comprehension and informational reading skills.

2 Build a Dinosaur Habitat

Goal: Encourage STEM thinking and creative problem-solving.

Materials:

- Blocks
- Recycled materials
- Toy dinosaurs
- Natural materials

Instructions:

- Design a habitat where a dinosaur could live.
- Think about food, water, shelter, and safety.
- Explain why your habitat would work.
- Compare different habitat designs.

Literacy Connection: Explaining ideas aloud builds vocabulary, reasoning, and oral communication.

First Grade cont.

Beyond the Book™ Experiences

3 Dinosaur Adjective Hunt

Goal: Expand descriptive vocabulary.

Materials:

- Paper
- Crayons
- Markers

Instructions:

- Brainstorm describing words such as: gigantic, enormous, fierce, gentle, bumpy, spiky, loud.
- Choose one dinosaur and describe it using as many adjectives as possible.
- Illustrate your dinosaur.

Literacy Connection: Using descriptive language helps children become stronger readers and writers.

4 Dinosaur Yoga Adventure

Goal: Promote self-regulation and body awareness.

Materials:

- Open space.

Instructions:

- Lead children through dinosaur-inspired poses.
- Stretch like a long-neck dinosaur.
- Balance like a dinosaur searching for food.
- Stomp like a giant dinosaur.
- Finish with deep breathing while pretending to watch the dinosaurs peacefully resting.

Literacy Connection: Movement paired with storytelling strengthens comprehension and expressive language.



Second Grade

Beyond the Book™ Experiences

1 Dinosaur Research Mini-Book

Goal: Develop research and informational writing skills.

Materials:

- Library books
- Internet resources (with adult support)
- Paper
- Crayons
- Pencils

Instructions:

- Research one dinosaur.
- Include: Name, Habitat, Diet, Size, Interesting facts.
- Illustrate each page.
- Share your completed book with others.

Literacy Connection: Research builds reading comprehension, note-taking, vocabulary, and informational writing skills.

2 Dinosaur Timeline

Goal: Build understanding of history and sequencing.

Materials:

- Timeline paper
- Dinosaur pictures
- Glue

Instructions:

- Create a simple timeline showing when dinosaurs lived.
- Discuss: Long ago, Millions of years, Extinction.
- Compare dinosaur life to life today.

Literacy Connection: Chronological thinking supports comprehension and understanding of informational texts.

Second Grade cont.

Beyond the Book™ Experiences

3 Dinosaur Sound Effects Theater

Goal: Strengthen expressive language and collaboration.

Materials:

- Homemade instruments
- Rhythm sticks
- Drums
- Scarves

Instructions:

- Retell the story using only sounds, movement, and expressions.
- Assign children different jobs: Sound effects, Narrator, Dinosaur actors, Audience.
- Switch roles and perform again.

Literacy Connection: Performing stories strengthens fluency, sequencing, vocabulary, and oral language.

4 Dinosaur Math Challenge

Goal: Reinforce mathematical thinking through play.

Materials:

- Dinosaur counters
- Dice
- Number cards

Instructions:

- Use dinosaur counters to solve: Addition, Subtraction, Equal groups, Skip counting.
- Encourage children to explain how they found each answer.

Literacy Connection: Explaining mathematical thinking strengthens speaking, reasoning, and vocabulary development.



Third Grade

Beyond the Book™ Experiences

1 Write a Dinosaur Adventure

Goal: Strengthen creative writing and storytelling.

Materials:

- Writing journal
- Pencil
- Colored pencils

Instructions:

- Imagine you discovered a living dinosaur!
- Write a story describing: Where you found it, What happened, The adventure you shared, How the story ends.
- Illustrate your favorite scene.

Literacy Connection: Creative writing develops organization, vocabulary, descriptive language, and imagination.

2 Dinosaur Debate

Goal: Build reasoning, speaking, and listening skills.

Materials:

- Chart paper

Instructions:

- Choose one debate topic: Which dinosaur would make the best pet? Which dinosaur was the strongest? Would you rather be a herbivore or a carnivore?
- Support your opinion with facts and reasons.
- Listen respectfully to others.

Literacy Connection: Supporting opinions with evidence strengthens speaking, reasoning, and persuasive communication.

Third Grade cont.

Beyond the Book™ Experiences

3 Fossil Excavation Challenge

Goal: Encourage scientific inquiry and teamwork.

Materials:

- Sand
- Small brushes
- Toy fossils or toy dinosaurs
- Recording sheet

Instructions:

- Hide fossils in a sensory bin filled with sand.
- Carefully excavate using brushes.
- Record observations about each fossil.
- Discuss how paleontologists use fossils to learn about the past.

Literacy Connection: Recording observations strengthens vocabulary, informational writing, and scientific thinking.

4 Create a Dinosaur Comic Strip

Goal: Strengthen sequencing and visual storytelling.

Materials:

- Comic strip template
- Pencil
- Markers

Instructions:

- Create a comic strip featuring a dinosaur adventure.
- Include: Characters, Dialogue, Sound effects, Beginning, Middle, End.
- Share your comic with family or classmates.

Literacy Connection: Combining pictures and words strengthens sequencing, comprehension, and storytelling.



Talk Together

The story may be over, but the conversation is just beginning! Talking about books helps children build vocabulary, strengthen comprehension, develop critical thinking skills, and make meaningful connections between stories and their own lives. There are no "right" or "wrong" answers—what matters most is listening, wondering, and enjoying the conversation together.

Infants & Toddlers (0–2 Years)

Keep the conversation simple and interactive.

- Can you roar like a dinosaur?
- Which dinosaur was your favorite?
- Can you stomp your feet?
- Was the dinosaur big or little?
- What sound did you like best?

Preschool (3–5 Years)

Encourage children to imagine and describe.

- Which dinosaur would you like to meet? Why?
- What was the funniest part of the story?
- If you were a dinosaur, what would you eat?
- How would your dinosaur move?
- What kind of dinosaur would you invent?

Kindergarten–Third Grade

Invite children to think more deeply.

- What surprised you about the story?
- Why do you think people are still fascinated by dinosaurs?
- If you could travel back in time, what would you want to see?
- What questions do you still have about dinosaurs?
- What did this story teach you?

Keep Reading!

If your child enjoyed *Dinosaur*, continue the adventure by reading more books about dinosaurs, fossils, and prehistoric life.

- How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night? by Jane Yolen
- How Do Dinosaurs Go to School? by Jane Yolen
- Dinosaurumpus! by Tony Mitton
- Dinosaur Dance! by Sandra Boynton
- National Geographic Little Kids First Big Book of Dinosaurs by Catherine D. Hughes
- Edwina, the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct by Mo Willems

 *Visit your local library! Ask a librarian to recommend even more dinosaur books for your family to enjoy together.*



About BCDI-Atlanta

The Black Child Development Institute (BCDI)-Atlanta is committed to improving the quality of life for Black children and families through education, literacy, advocacy, family engagement, and community partnerships.

Our Family Literacy Events and Beyond the Book™ Family Literacy Activity Guides are designed to help families transform everyday reading into joyful learning experiences that strengthen literacy, spark curiosity, and build lasting memories.

Together, we are helping every child discover the power of books, language, imagination, and the stories that shape who we are.

bcdiatlanta.org

Stay Connected

Keep the Learning Going!

Share Your Story

We'd love to see your family's learning adventures! Share photos, stories, and favorite moments from your Beyond the Book™ experience.

bcdiatlanta.org/impact

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