Early Childhood Camping 101-Backpack Relay

Program Type: Classroom/Field   Target Grade Level: E.C.   Program Length: 1 hour

Theme

Knowing what items to bring camping and backpacking is important. Having the right items in a pack can help provide for a more enjoyable and safe experience.

Objectives

- Children will learn to recognize and name some of the important items to bring on a camping trip.

Activities

- Storytime-15 minutes
  - Set up a tent in the room/outdoors prior to the start of class
  - Call all children into tent for story-time. (if the class is too large, the activities can be set up in rotations)
  - After reading the book 'Because Your Mommy Loves You' by Andrew Clements, talk about the concept of camping, and show the children pictures of various items they might need on a camping trip.

- Backpack Relay-20 minutes
  - Bring children out of the tent and look at 2 large backpacks, and all of the items that are packed inside of them. Have the children get into 2 lines, with the items on the floor in front of them. The backpacks will be placed across the room. Instruct the children to take one item at a time, and race across the room to put it inside of the backpack. They will then race back to the line, and another child will take their turn.
Craft Activities-20 minutes

- Camp pictures matching game
  - Spread out the laminated pictures of camping equipment facedown on the table or floor. Have the children try to find matching pairs.
- Cut and glue backpacking worksheet
  - Color and cut out the small camping pictures and glue them onto the backpacking picture
- Make a tent
  - Cut a slit up the center of the green triangle and fold edges back to make a 'tent' (see example)
  - Glue the green ‘tent’ onto a larger piece of paper and add some trees and flowers
  - Glue colored sticks around edges.

Closing

- Pass out ‘Camping is Fun' coloring books to take home.
- Pass out informational brochures to parents

Resources & Materials

- Supplies: Story book ‘Because Your Mommy Loves You' by Andrew Clements
- Tent, 2 Backpacks, 2 sleeping bags, 4 water bottles, 2 bags of clothes, 2 bags of snacks, 2 flashlights, 2 hats, 2 pr. of sunglasses, 2 bottles of sunblock
- Backpack worksheets
- I love Camping coloring book
- Popsicle sticks
- Large white index cards
- Construction paper triangles, about 5 "
- Glue
- Crayons
- Child size scissors

Vocabulary

- backpack
- prepared
- tent