Meet the Dinosaurs

Familiarize your child with the different dinosaur counters by playing a quick game of “Meet the Dinosaurs.” Put all the dinosaurs in the bucket, and then ask for each of them by type until one of each kind has been removed. There are 10 types of dinosaurs included: Tyrannosaurus rex, Stegosaurus, Triceratops, Brachiosaurus, Parasaurolophus, Pachycephalosaurus, Spinosaurus, Struthiosaurus, Apatosaurus, Velociraptor

Sorting Time

Practice sorting the dinosaurs. There are 10 types of dinosaurs, with 6 of each kind. Have children sort the dinosaurs into 10 different piles. You can also try sorting smaller groups by different attributes. For example, you could sort them into dinosaurs that walked on two legs vs. four legs, or by colors.

Pattern Power

Practice patterns by first showing a basic ABAB pattern using two of the dinosaurs such as T.rex / Triceratops / T.rex / Triceratops. Ask your child to continue the pattern. Once they get the concept, try exploring other patterns, such as ABC ABC or even ABCD ABCD.
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At-Home Activities

Dinosaur Tales

Use the dinosaur counters to create and solve story problems that involve addition and subtraction. Say: “Two Triceratops walked into the jungle. Three more Triceratops join them. How many Triceratops are there altogether?” Perform this activity with many different quantities, animal counters, and story scenarios.

Who’s Missing?

Place several of the dinosaur counters in front of your child. Make sure there is only one of each kind. Ask your child to study them carefully, then close their eyes. Remove one of the dinosaurs and put it out of sight. Have the child look again and try to guess which one is no longer there.

Alternative play: start with three different dinosaur counters. When your child closes their eyes, add a fourth counter and have them guess which one was added. Continue until one of each of the dinosaurs has been added.

Who Am I?

(for 2 or more children): Place a group of dinosaur counters on the table. Have one child pick a dinosaur, but don’t say it out loud. The other children take turns asking questions to discover the chosen dinosaur’s identity. To make it more challenging, try limiting the questions to yes/no answers. Examples could be: “Does it walk on four legs?” or “Is it green?” or “Does it have short arms?”