

DINOSAUR



VS.

THE LIBRARY

BOB SHEA

Welcome to Our Library:

Activities and Adventures to Engage Every Visiting Dinosaur (or Library Patron, Reader, or Visitor)



Throughout his adventures, Dinosaur roars his way around the world, making friends and fans wherever he goes. In *Dinosaur vs. the Library*, Dinosaur makes his first visit to the library, where he learns that his usual roar-iffic approach may be a bit too enthusiastic for this special place. Use these activities to introduce newcomers to the library, help them learn more about its offerings, and better understand behavior expectations.

This Is How We Do It!

Learning Library Behavior Expectations

After sharing *Dinosaur vs. the Library*, and after asking young visitors to consider Dinosaur's behavior while visiting the library, invite them to play a group sorting game where 15–20 behaviors are read out loud and participants must determine whether the behavior is best for the library or for the playground. To prepare, make large strips of paper that detail various behaviors. Examples could include the following:

- I use an "inside" voice when speaking to others
- I ask for help locating something
- I run quickly so I can be the next person to take a turn
- I shout and yell my favorite friend's name
- I wait for my turn in line

Using either an interactive whiteboard, chalkboard, or a large easel, make a T-chart with two categories: "On the playground" and "In the library." Hand out strips to each child (or place children in pairs or small groups if there are a large number of participants). Next, ask them to come to the front to read their behavior statement. After hearing it, allow the large group to call out the appropriate placement. Once all statements are read and placed, close the orientation by answering any questions and welcoming your visitors to the library.



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Learning the Library Layout:

Host a Scavenger Hunt

For young readers, learning to explore and understand the layout and defined sections of the children's department will make the library become "their library." To facilitate this process and help children become more familiar with the library, create a scavenger hunt and have them work in small teams to search for answers to the questions you provide. Begin by sharing *Dinosaur vs. the Library* with your visitors, and discuss why it's important to learn more about the library layout for all guests (including Dinosaur). Make sure to:

- Decide what areas of the library children need to best become familiar with ahead of time.
- Ask simple questions that offer specific direction for their search. Examples might include:
 - Find a biography of an American president and determine the year in which he was born.
 - Find out where to go if you want to recheck/keep your book for a longer period of time.
 - Find out where librarians host story time events.
 - Find out where other Dinosaur books are shelved.
 - Find out where to go to find a book you can listen to (audiobook).
- Keep the scavenger hunt fairly short (7–10 questions).
- Encourage them to work in small groups and provide prizes for completed sheets.
- To prevent crowding, rearrange the order of the questions so that groups are searching for different answers at the same time.



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Genre Studies: Generating a Greater Understanding of Literary Categories

In *Dinosaur vs. the Library*, Dinosaur encounters the library during a story time, and though he finds it difficult, he learns that hearing a wonderful picture book read aloud is worth containing his roars. Besides picture books, Dinosaur and other library newcomers will need to know what other types of books the library has to offer them. Begin by introducing the term *genre* to them.

Examples for fiction could include (but are not limited to):
• Mystery • Fantasy • Sports • Humor • Adventure • Historical

For nonfiction books, examples of genres might include:
• Biography or autobiography • Informational • Reference

Discuss the major components of these types of books, and have participants consider what makes these genres unique. Next, have them analyze the books they have read most recently to determine the genre category in which the books fall. Is there a pattern to their reading? After allowing time for analysis and discussion, take children into the library collection to explore and select a book that falls into a new genre that they haven't read from recently.



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Books by Bob Shea

Coming September 2011!

Dinosaur vs. the Library
Tr. ed. 978-1-4231-3338-4

Dinosaur vs. the Potty
Tr. ed. 978-1-4231-3339-1

Dinosaur vs. Bedtime
Tr. ed. 978-1-4231-1335-5
Bd. ed. 978-1-4231-3788-7

Big Plans
Tr. ed. 978-1-4231-1100-9

These activities were created by Rose Brock, a school librarian and doctoral candidate at Texas Woman's University specializing in children's and young adult literature.



For more fun Dinosaur activities, visit www.disney.com/dinosaurvs

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