**Resource Guide for Backyard Bass Fishing Kit**

This guide has programming ideas and information for a variety of ages, from preschool to adult. Pick and choose which ideas will work best for you and your audience.

In addition to this resource guide, there are coloring books, fact sheets, posters, programming ideas, and word searches included after the resource guide. Be sure to look through those resources, and the included print books for other programming ideas.

\*The University of Kentucky’s Cooperative Extension and 4-H Office have provided programming ideas, fact sheets, and environmental articles to support this kit. KDLA wants to thank UK’s Extension Staff for recommending: “ABCs of Fishing,” “Backyard Stream Guide,” “Build a Fish,” “DIY Casting Game,” “Fish and Aquatic Word Search,” “Fish Coloring Pages,” “Keeping Trash Out of Streams,” “Kentucky Watersheds,” “Living Along a Stream,” “Planning Your Fishing Trip,” and “Poster of Small Invertebrates.”

\*Please refer to the most current Kentucky Fishing & Boating Guide for regulations about fishing licenses, limits on how many fish can be caught and kept, and other fishing regulations. <https://fw.ky.gov/FishBoatGuide/Pages/default.aspx>

Refer to the *Basic Fishing: Catch the Fishing Fever* book, or the following YouTube video, for how to tie a Clinch knot to attach the plastic fish to the rods.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czqOOuU2S\_8

You can also use the instructions for the Clinch Knot in the Easiest Fishing Knots-Waterproof Guide.

**Print your own fishing certificate from the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife**

https://app.fw.ky.gov/certificate/default.aspx

**Additional video resources for parents and educators can be found at:**

https://fw.ky.gov/Education/Pages/For-Educators-and-Parents.aspx

**Keywords:**

You can incorporate the keywords below into discussion questions or into another activity like fishing bingo.

Bass

Bluegill

Bobber

Carp

Catfish

Clinch knot

Crankbait

Crappie

Float

Jerk bait

Jig

Line (mono, flouro, braid)

Live bait

Lures

Minnows

Muskellunge

Plastic

Rods and reels

Sauger

Saugeye

Spincast reel

Spinner bait

Sunfish

Tackle box

Walleye

Wax worms or meal worms

Worms or nightcrawlers

**Programming ideas:**

**Questions to ask to encourage conversation and remembering**

-Encourage group members to share their first fishing experience, their favorite fishing experience, and their funniest or worst fishing experience.

-Where do you like to fish? Do you fish by yourself or go with someone? How do you choose if you fish alone or with someone else?

-What type of fish do you like?

-What is your favorite fish recipe? What types of foods do you usually serve with your fish?

-What lures, bait, rod, and/or fishing line do you prefer to use? Why do you like these?

**Word searches**

There are six different word search (and their respective answer keys) attached to this resource guide.

**Books to read and share**

Book suggestions came from: NoveList and Demco, https://ideas.demco.com/blog/so-many-fish-storytime/

*10 Little Fish =: 10 Pececitos* by Harriet Ziefert

*Fish* by Liam Francis Walsh

*Fish Eyes: A Book You Can Count On* by Lois Ehlert

*Fish Faces* by Norbert Wu

*Fish Wish* by Bob Barner

*Go Fish!* by Tammi Sauer

*Hooray for Fish* by Lucy Cousins

*How Yussel caught the gefilte fish: a Shabbos story* by Charlotte Herman

*I’m the Biggest Thing in the Ocean* by Kevin Sherry

*Little Fish Lost* by Nancy Van Laan

*The Pout-Pout Fish* by Deborah Diesen

*Rain Fish* by Lois Ehlert

*The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister

*Swimmy* by Leo Lionni

*Swish, Fish! Splash, Dash!* by Suse MacDonald

*Ten Little Fish* by Audrey and Bruce Wood

*Trout, Trout, Trout!: A Fish Chant* by April Pulley Sayre

**Literacy Activities**

**Letters**

Source: https://ideas.demco.com/blog/so-many-fish-storytime/

Storytime participants often become familiar with letters, practicing the pincer grasp (in preparation for holding writing utensils), and exploring mark making in exciting ways.

Help them practice letter writing by placing clear hair gel, a drop or two of blue food coloring, and glitter (if you like) in a large zip-top bag. Close the bag, mix everything together, and cover the zip seal with packing tape. Lay the bag on a table or other smooth surface (even the floor) and consider placing a white sheet of paper under the bag for added visibility.

Invite children to use their fingers and hands to draw shapes and letters in the gel (through the side of the bag). Squishing or sweeping the bag smooth will “reset” it for the next letter. This is a great project for caregivers to recreate at home, so be prepared to hand out instructions.

*-See the attached handouts: “Fish Stories,” “Science and Nature,” and “Underwater,” for additional literacy and programming ideas.*

**Rhymes and songs to share—**

**Fish**

From *Wee Sing and Pretend* by Pamela Conn Beall and Susan Hagen Nipp. (2001). Price Stern Sloan. Pp. 7.

Shimmering, glimmering, under the sea,

The fish swim quietly,

With flickering fins and swishing tails

And mouths that move silently.

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“Catching a Fish” (see handout labeled Fish Stories)

“Five Little Fishes” (see handout labeled Fish Stories)

“Five Little Fishies” (see handout labeled Underwater)

“I’m a Little Fishy” (see handout labeled Underwater)

“Slippery Fish” (see handout labeled Fish Stories)

“Swimming” (see handout labeled Underwater)

“Three Little Fishies” (see handout labeled Fish Stories)

**Biology/Math/Nature Activities**

**Sorting**

Sort the backyard bass fish by color or by the type of fish that is on the back of the plastic fish. You can use the Kentucky Fishing and Boating Guide or the Fish ID Booklet to help your group find and name the type of fish.

**Matching/Memory**

Mix up the plastic fish and turn them over so that the laminated fish image on the back is not showing. Divide your group into teams and have them try and match the fish types. Whichever group gets the most matches wins.

**Charts and Graphs**

-Count how many types of colors or fish you have in each group. Create a chart of the different types of colors/fish. You can use stickers, hash marks, or even Goldfish crackers as your counting tool. Of course, you will need glue dots or tape to keep the goldfish on the chart. Hang the chart up in the library or the location you are in, so that your group can see the results.

-Create a chart of the record-winning fish caught in Kentucky. The Department of Fish & Wildlife list is in this guide with the title, “State Fishing Records.” Use the data to graph the weight of the fish or the year when the fish was caught.

**Scales**

Show the printout of, “The Beauty of Fish Scales, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Blog, Medium, where a variety of scales can be seen. Talk about the different colors in the scales and what the scales do. Provide different colors and types of paper, including shiny wrapping paper. Encourage your group members to cut or tear the paper to make scales for their own fish.

The printout was retrieved from this site: https://usfws.medium.com/the-beauty-of-fish-scales-d116826e5470

-Encourage your group members to use the microscope and slides provided in this kit to see what objects from nature look like magnified.

**Stream/Pond Sensory Bin**

Source: https://ideas.demco.com/blog/so-many-fish-storytime/

If space and resources allow, create a stream/pond sensory bin. Include sand (depending on the age of participants and the flooring in your space), plastic animals (frogs, worms, fish), small buckets, and fish cut from a variety of materials, such as:

Sandpaper

Kitchen sponges

Fabric

Craft foam

Corrugated paper

As participants explore the bin, encourage them to talk about what they’re discovering. How do the fish feel? What color are they? How many fish are there? Beyond being enriching and enjoyable, this provides an opportunity for caregivers to practice engaging with children in a language-rich activity.

**Other activities**

-There are coloring pages available in this kit. Share pages with your group and allow group members to color the pages and talk about what they see on the pages.

-The Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife has a Fish Identification Booklet (attached) and two Fish Identification websites:

https://fw.ky.gov/Fish/Pages/Fish-Identification.aspx

https://fw.ky.gov/Fish/Pages/Fish-Identification-and-Information.aspx

Share images and facts about the different fish with your group members. Consider creating trivia questions using the fish ID information.

-Make sushi, either real or a candy version.

* Check with a community college or other college in the area. Several of them have a Culinary Arts program, and the instructors (or an upper-level student) may be willing to do a demonstration or program about sushi, the different types, and preparation methods.
* *Sushi Secrets: Easy Recipes for the Home Cook* (2012) Marisa Baggett
* Candy Sushi Teen Program

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/223913412698350047/>

* Lunchbox Sandwich Sushi Ideas for School

<https://www.dollartree.com/en/lunchbox-sushi/idea-201308-41>

* Teen Grab and Go Kit: Candy Sushi <https://deerfieldlibrary.org/2021/09/teen-grab-and-go-kit-candy-sushi/>

-Play Go Fish, Happy Salmon, or the Educational Fishing Game with your group. An alternate idea would be to set up stations with the different games or other activities at respective stations so that your group members can experience a variety of games.