



At-Home ECP ePacket SAMPLE

Week 0 - Little Learners: Outrageous Otters

From Teacher Jen

Date: 6/9/2020



Lesson Plan

Outrageous Otters

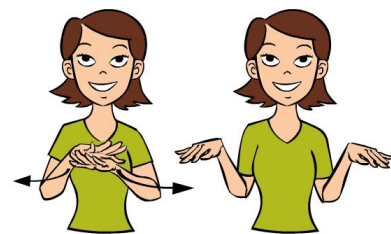
From Teacher Jen

Date: 6/4/2020

Circle Time

♪ Little Learners, make a circle, for a fun and happy time.
We are learning about *otters* in our circle, yours and mine. ♪

ASL "swim": Show a simple swimming movement.





Some otters live in the sea, but most otters live in freshwater. The otters at the Zoo are North American River Otters.



River otters have long slender bodies with short, dense fur. Their eyes, nose, and ears are on the top of their head.



River otters live...in rivers! They are very social and live in groups.



Otters love to play!



Otters are excellent swimmers.



Otters eat lots of fish, as well as shrimp, crawfish, and other aquatic creatures.



Otter babies are called pups.

Movement

- Stretch up tall, bend down and touch the water.
- Wiggle your body like the flow of the river.
- Swim! Paddle your arms, kick your feet.
- Dive, twirl, and roll through the water.
- Slide on your tummy! Head up, arms and legs back.
- Curl up in your den and go to sleep.

Zoo Walk

River Otters

♪ Hi ho, hi ho, into the Zoo we go.
What fun we'll have, what things we'll see
Hi ho, hi ho, hi ho, hi ho. ♪

[River Otters at SF Zoo](#)

Snack & Storytime

♪ Two little ears to hear each sound...it's snack time!
Two little eyes to look around...I see some snacks!
One little nose to smell what's sweet...I smell something yummy!
One big mouth that likes to eat...num num num num num!
It's snack time! ♪

Story: *Together* By Emma Dodd

Animal Visitor

Aquatic Turtles

♪ Let's sit for our visitor, our visitor, our visitor.
Ohh let's sit for our visitor. Oh who can it be?
A chinchilla, a turtle, snake, hedgehog, armadillo?
Ohh let's sit for our visitor. Oh who can it be? ♪

[Aquatic Turtles at SF Zoo](#)

Goodbye

Art: *Paper Bag Otter*

♪ See you later, alligator!
In a while, crocodile!
Give a hug, ladybug!
Take care, teddy bear!
Bye-bye, butterfly!
Blow a kiss, goldfish!
Gotta go, buffalo!
Be sweet, parakeet!



Toodle-loo, kangaroo! 🎵





Pictures

Outrageous Otters

Date: 6/9/2020



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Facts & Coloring Sheet

Outrageous Otters

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Little Learners Presents... “Outrageous Otters”!

Otter Facts for Kids

- River otters are great swimmers, but can run on land, too.
 - Otters love to play! They chase each other, wrestle, do flips in the water, and slide.
 - Otters have very thick fur to keep them warm and dry.
 - River otters eat fish, frogs, turtles, and crabs.
 - River otters rest in dens next to the water.



Otter Facts for Grownups

- Both river and sea otters are mammals belonging to the family Mustelidae, or weasels. Other members of the weasel family include badgers, ferrets, and wolverines. We have two river otters here at the San Francisco Zoo & Gardens.
- The North American river otter range spreads across most of North America. The 13 other species of otters inhabit a wide global range. Otters generally live along streams, lakes, estuaries, inland waterways, and marine coves. In California, they can be found in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and many smaller tributaries.
- North American river otters build dens in the burrows of other mammals, in natural hollows, such as under a log, or in river banks. Dens have underwater or above water entrances and a tunnel leading to a nest chamber that is lined with leaves, grass, moss, bark, and hair.
- Excellent swimmers and divers, river otters can hold their breath for up to 8 minutes. They can be fast on land, capable of running at up to 15 mph.
- North American river otters eat mainly aquatic organisms like amphibians, fish, turtles, crayfish, crabs, and other invertebrates. They may on occasion eat birds, eggs, and small mammals. Although considered carnivores, they sometimes eat aquatic plants.
- Although river otters’ populations are steady, sea otters are endangered. Sea otters were hunted extensively for their fur between 1741 and 1911, and the world population fell to 1,000–2,000 individuals in a fraction of their historic range. A subsequent international ban on hunting, conservation efforts, and reintroduction programs into previously populated areas have contributed to numbers rebounding, and the species now occupies about two-thirds of its former range.

Otter Song (tune: *Mary Had a Little Lamb*)

River otters love to play
They wrestle, chase, and bound all day
Otters swim and run and slide
They have thick fur to keep them dry!







Art

Paper Bag Otter

Adapted from Buggy and Buddy

Materials

- [otter art template](#)
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Paper bag
- Recycled newspaper
- Rubber band
- Glue/tape/stapler

Instructions

1. Print the [otter art template](#) on cardstock. Cut out the head, arms and feet.
 - a. Color or decorate the pieces however you like!



2. Stuff a paper bag about $\frac{2}{3}$ full with newspaper or other recycled material. Secure with a rubber band.



- Cut the bottom of the paper bag (below the rubber band) in two to create two otter feet.



- Glue, tape, or staple the otter head, arms, and feet onto the paper bag.
 - Tip: Let your child decide where the pieces go. It doesn't have to look realistic!

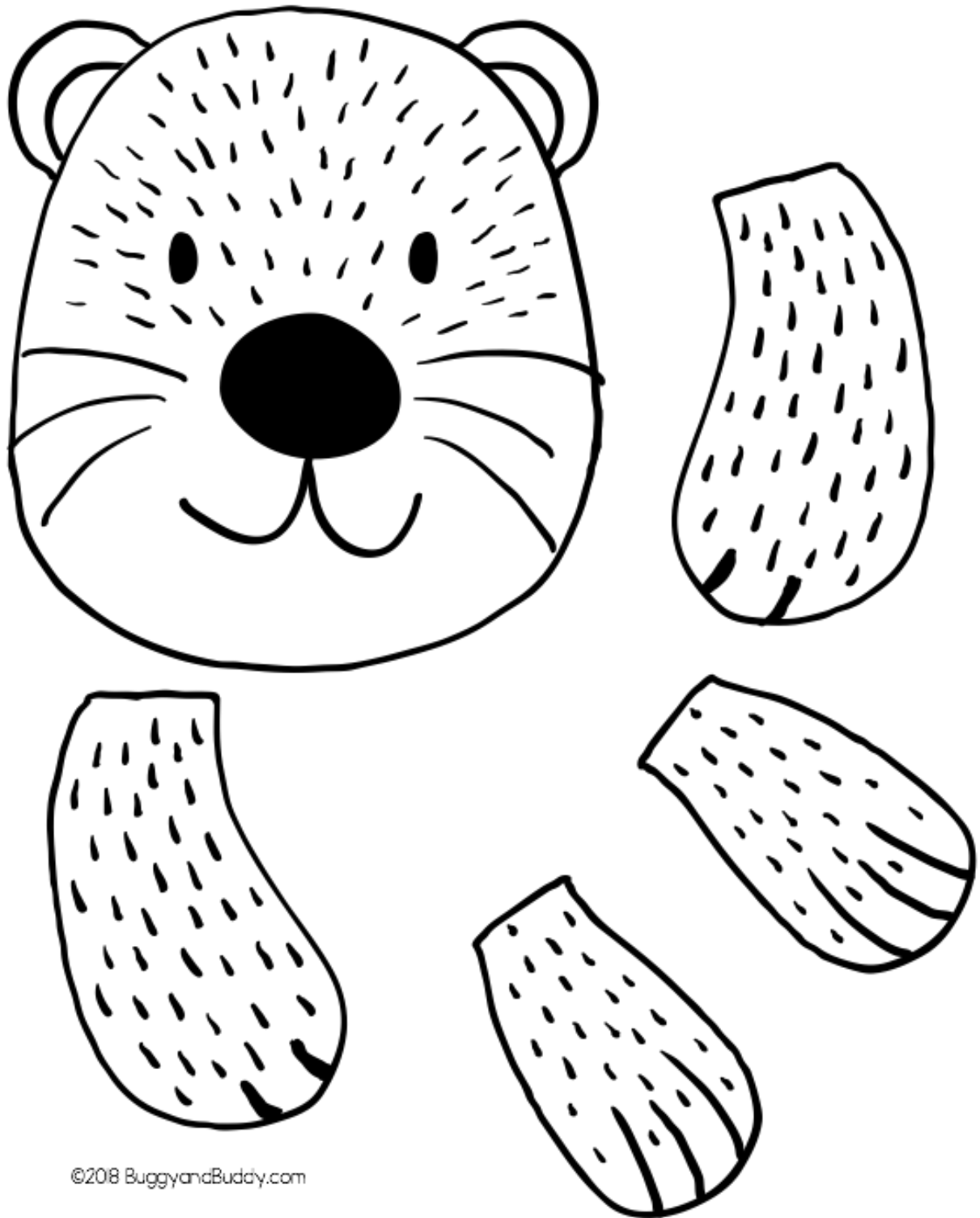


- Optional: Make kelp out of green tissue paper or construction paper for your otter.



- Clean up!

Sea Otter Template





Pretend Play

River Otter

Materials

- [Otter food](#)
- Blankets, towels, tarp
- Pillows, boxes, blocks
- River animals: otters, frogs, aquatic turtles, fish, snails, crawdads, bivalves

Play!

- ❖ Build a river! You can use blankets, towels, sheets, a tarp, etc.
- ❖ Swim, twirl, somersault, wrestle, chase in your river.
- ❖ Hide [otter food](#) to find and eat.
- ❖ Tobogan on your tummy.
- ❖ Build a den on the banks of the river. Use pillows, blocks, or a big cardboard box.
- ❖ These are just a few ideas. Follow your child's lead and encourage them to use their imagination!



Nature Play

Water Painting

Parts

- water
- buckets
- old paintbrushes, paint roller, sponges

Play!

There is no wrong way to do this activity, but here are a few ideas to get you started...

- Pretend to be house painters - paint the walls, lawn furniture, benches. You can use big, broad brush strokes (and develop gross motor skills).
- Use a fence or the sidewalk as your canvas to paint a picture.
- Use a smaller brush to practice writing letters and numbers.
- Work together to cover a large section of fence or wall before the water dries.

