



# Discovery Time: Ocean Lab



## Introduction

Explore life under the sea with these early literacy activities.

## Early Literacy Connection

- **Vocabulary**
- **Gross Motor Skills**
- **Narrative Skills**
- **Play:** learn about the world around you through science. Natural sciences encourage a young child's connection with nature. Children who have opportunities to explore nature are more likely to:
  - Handle challenges and problems more capably
  - Act responsibly towards the earth and each other
  - Be more physically active
  - Have a greater appreciation of the arts, music, history, and literature
  - Choose science or a related field for careers
  - Become better-informed and environmentally-aware adults.



Children are born with a natural affinity towards nature and are fascinated with animals. By building on your child's natural interest in animals, you are fostering a respect for all living things and the habitats where they live.

## Supplies

### Gross Motor Skills Dice

- Scissors
- Glue
- Dice Template

### Fish Puppet

- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Crayons
- Craft sticks
- Glue

Revised 6/1/2020



## Instructions

### Gross Motor Dice

1. Cut out your dice template
2. Glue it together to create your dice
3. Play with your dice! Gently roll the dice and act out the instructions on the top. The activity cube uses words that your child might not use in everyday life, like “glide” and “ripple”. This is a great way to expand your child’s vocabulary. The more words a child hears, the easier it is for them to recognize words when they start to read.

### Fish Puppet

1. Trace your child’s hand on a sheet of paper
2. Cut out the hand outline
3. Decorate your puppet to look like a fish
4. Glue your fish onto a craft stick

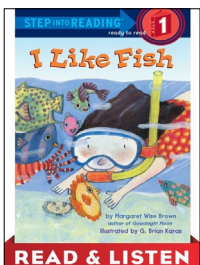
## Review

Explore additional learning concepts on our [website](#) and blog [Plano Library Learns/Early Learning](#), including information about library [databases](#) for each aspect of STEAM

- Gross motor skills require whole body movement and involve the large muscles of the body to do things like walking and jumping. Working on gross motor skills helps your child to gain strength and confidence. Developing gross motor skills builds a foundation for doing more complex skills in the future. Participate with your child when you play with the dice so that they can copy your movements. This also helps them see that movement is a good thing. As you play, describe your child’s actions (ex: You stretched your arms really high!). This helps them learn new vocabulary— and feel a sense of pride that their actions are noticed
- Encourage your child to tell a story using their fish puppet. Using puppets to tell stories develops your child's language skills and vocabulary. This also teaches your child about story structure—that all stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end. As you play puppets together, ask questions to help them elaborate on their story.
- By encouraging your child’s wonder and interest in the natural world promotes empathy for living creatures. As they get older, they will continue caring for the natural world around them.

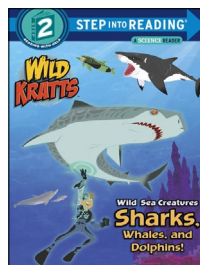
## Books to Explore

Through the [Libby app](#) and your library card, you can read eBooks about painting and art with your little one



***I Like Fish***  
by Margaret Wise Brown

[Checkout](#)



***Wild Sea Creatures***  
by Chris and Martin Kratt

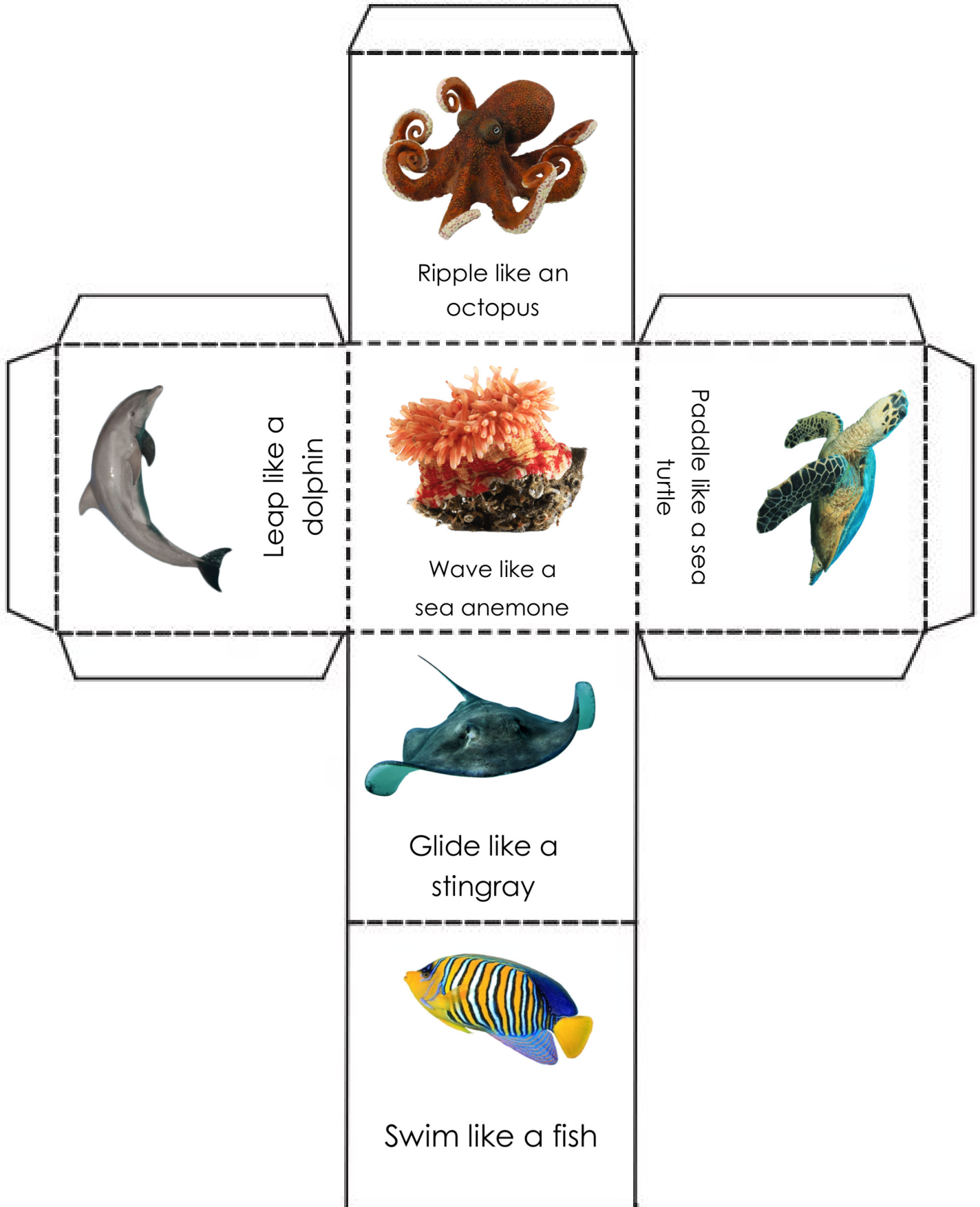
[Checkout](#)



***Follow the Moon Home***  
by Philippe Cousteau and Deborah Hopkinson

[Checkout](#)

Cut on solid lines - Fold on dashed lines



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