

Petals & Play Thursday

Lovely Lizards

Celebrating the beauty in every scale & tail!

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Dear Families & Friends,

This week, our little learners are taking a sun-soaked stroll into the world of **lizards** for **Petals & Play Thursday** in honor of **World Lizard Day**. 🦎❤️

Lizards are sometimes misunderstood — some people find them strange or even a little scary — but in nature, every creature has a role to play. We believe all living beings deserve to be seen for their beauty, uniqueness, and the way they help our world stay in balance. From their bright patterns to their helpful role in gardens, lizards are a reminder that wonder lives in every corner of nature.

Throughout these activities, children will explore lizard-inspired art, movement, and sensory play. They'll discover the vibrant colors and textures of lizards, learn how they move and find shelter, and even explore how these small reptiles help keep plants and gardens healthy. By encouraging curiosity instead of fear, we hope to nurture respect, empathy, and appreciation for all creatures — whether they have feathers, fur, or scales.

💡 At-Home Idea: "Lizard Look-Out"

Go on a neighborhood or backyard nature walk. Keep an eye out for lizards or other reptiles — or look for the places they might live, like sunny rocks or shady garden corners. Talk with your child about why lizards might like those spots and what makes them important to the ecosystem.

At The Gro Academy, we believe that every child can grow into a caring steward of the natural world. By shining a light on even the smallest, scaliest creatures, we're planting seeds of compassion and curiosity that will bloom for years to come.

Celebrating the beauty in every creature, big and small.



with sun-warmed smiles,
the gro academy
team

LOVELY LIZARDS

Celebrate World Lizard Day with a dash of wonder and a splash of scales! These playful activities invite children to leap, scamper, and create while discovering the charm and beauty of our reptile friends.

From slinky movements to colorful patterns, each activity blends curiosity, creativity, and care for all living things. Aligned with WMELS domains, they're easy to enjoy in the classroom or at home.

Lizard Leap Obstacle Course

Materials:

- Floor markers (tape, paper cutouts, or chalk spots)
- Pillows, cones, or foam blocks for "rocks"
- Plastic lizards or printed lizard images (optional)

Instructions:

1. Set up a path with "rocks" for children to leap across, pretending they're lizards jumping from stone to stone.
2. Add areas to crawl under "logs" (chairs or tables) or climb over "branches" (low foam blocks).
3. Encourage different lizard-inspired movements—leaping, crawling, tail swishing.

Targets WMELS Domains:

- Physical Development & Health: Gross motor skills, balance, and coordination.
- Approaches to Learning: Creativity and problem-solving during movement challenges.

Patterned Lizard Art

Materials:

- Lizard outlines (printed or hand-drawn)
- Paint, crayons, markers, or collage materials
- Pattern inspiration images (real lizards, books, or posters)

Instructions:

1. Show children examples of lizard patterns (stripes, spots, speckles).
2. Have them decorate their lizard outline using patterns, colors, and textures.
3. Discuss how lizards' patterns help them survive (camouflage, warning colors).

Targets WMELS Domains:

- Creative Arts & Expression: Visual creativity and pattern-making.
- Cognition & General Knowledge: Understanding animal adaptations and habitats.

Lizard Listening Storytime

Materials:

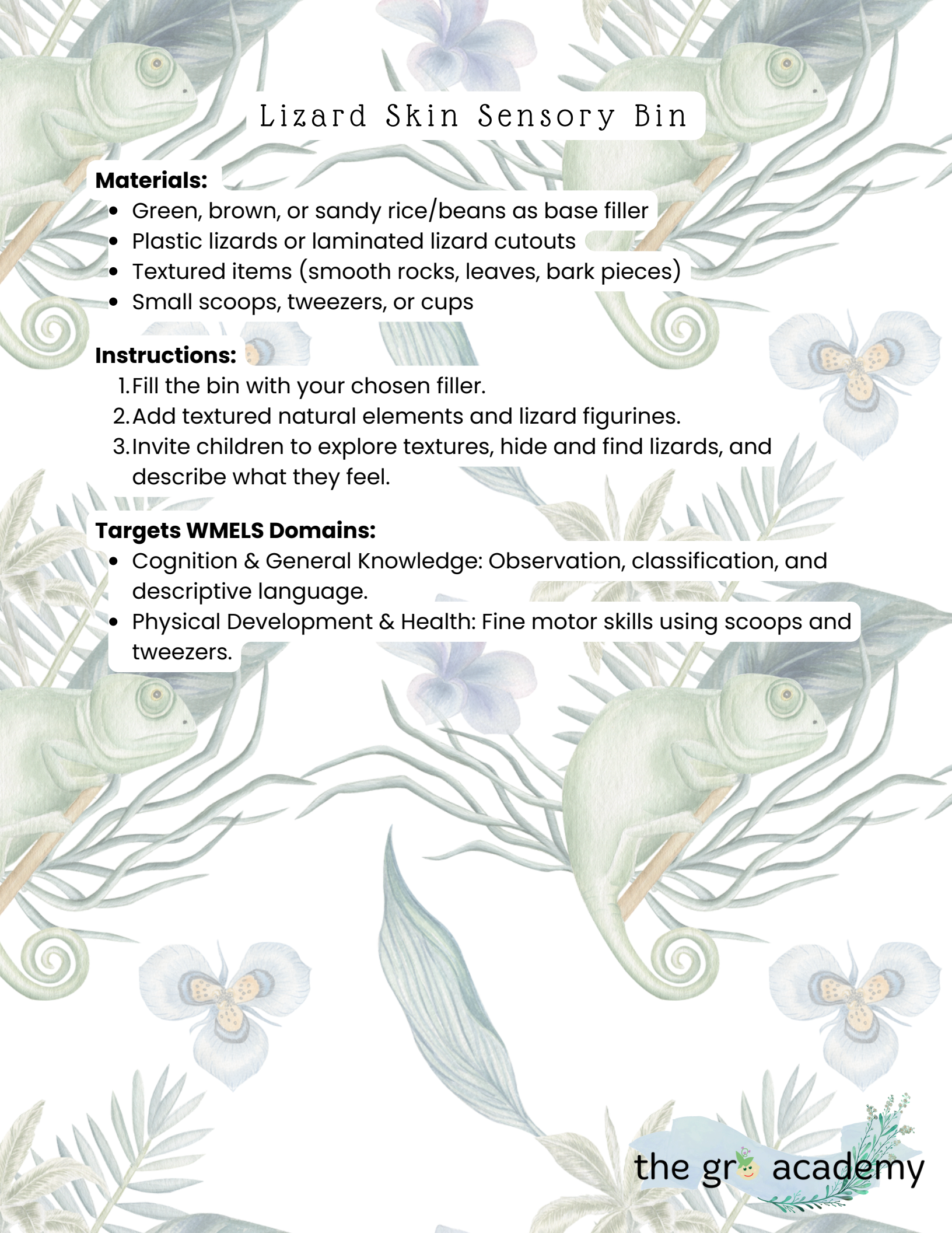
- A lizard-themed children's book (e.g., Lizzy the Lizard or The Mixed-Up Chameleon)
- Soft seating or a cozy rug area
- Plush lizards or props (optional)

Instructions:

1. Gather children in a cozy reading space.
2. Read the lizard-themed story, adding pauses to ask questions or predict what happens next.
3. Encourage children to retell the story using props or puppets.

Targets WMELS Domains:

- Language Development & Communication: Listening, vocabulary, and comprehension.
- Social & Emotional Development: Building empathy and connection through storytelling.



Lizard Skin Sensory Bin

Materials:

- Green, brown, or sandy rice/beans as base filler
- Plastic lizards or laminated lizard cutouts
- Textured items (smooth rocks, leaves, bark pieces)
- Small scoops, tweezers, or cups

Instructions:

1. Fill the bin with your chosen filler.
2. Add textured natural elements and lizard figurines.
3. Invite children to explore textures, hide and find lizards, and describe what they feel.

Targets WMELS Domains:

- Cognition & General Knowledge: Observation, classification, and descriptive language.
- Physical Development & Health: Fine motor skills using scoops and tweezers.

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