



LIZARD (EMPATHY) STORY

CREATURE FEATURE

Updated 7/2016

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Puppets (suggested but can use any that eats bugs):
 - 2 lizard puppets (ex: gecko, iguana or chameleon)
 - Frog – uses long tongue to reach out and catch bugs
 - Spider – makes a web to catch bugs in
 - Bat – catches bugs in flight
 - Anteater – uses its nose to locate ant hills and termite mounds and then uses it's long sticky tongue to lick up the insects
 - Armadillo
 - Hedgehog
 - Plastic bugs (found in puppet bin in the "smalls box")
- Animal encounter materials
 - Mystery box
 - Magic soap
 - Lizard (gecko, inland bearded dragon or blue tongues skink)
 - Wipes/trash bags for animal waste
- Helper/assistant

ANNOUNCEMENT

"Good morning Zoomazium friends – it's just about time for Creature Feature. If you'd like to join me for a puppet story and a chance to meet a live zoo animal, please have a seat around the tan carpet in front of the stage. We will be starting in just a few minutes."

INTRODUCTION

Hello my name is _____ and this is my friend _____. I am very excited to be here today. How are you feeling today? Pause for answers and acknowledge responses. Have any of you been here for Creature Feature before? Do you we have any new friends today? Welcome new and old friends to Creature Feature! We are here to tell you a really fun puppet story and then introduce you to a real live zoo animal. I will tell you that the animal we will meet is an animal from the story.

STORY WRITE-UP

Our story this morning stars my friend right here (hold up gecko puppet). What kind of animal is he? That's right! He's a gecko! Use the pronoun that corresponds with the pronoun of the live lizard that you will be using for the touch opportunity at the end of Creature Feature.

Gecko woke up this morning and stretched his gecko legs. Do you boys and girls like to stretch when you wake up? Can you stretch like gecko? As gecko was stretching he started to hear a rumbling coming from his tummy. Why do you think his tummy was rumbling? That's right, he was hungry. Do you have any idea what gecko might want to eat for breakfast? Do you think gecko likes pancakes for breakfast? No! He loves to eat BUGS. Did any of you have bugs for breakfast? Me either.

Gecko decided he needed to go out exploring to look for bugs. Gecko started to get excited just thinking about bugs! What do you do when you get excited? Discuss what kids do when they get excited. When gecko gets excited he jump up and down and yells yippee! Put out some bugs are the floor. Gecko looked around and he noticed some bugs off in the distance and he started to feel very excited! Can you help me act excited like gecko. What do you think the bugs are going to do if gecko is excited and starts running and jumping and yelling yippee as he heads towards the bugs? ... Run away! That's exactly what happened. All the bugs ran away. How do you think gecko is feeling now? Why do you think he feels that way? Pause for answers and acknowledge responses.

FIRST ENCOUNTER: ENTER SPIDER!

Gecko was walking along feeling kind of sad when he saw another animal up in a web. Spider came down out of its web. "Hello, gecko!" said spider. "I noticed you were looking a little sad. Why are you sad?" Gecko told Spider about how he had tried to catch the bugs. I know a great way to catch bugs! How does a spider catch bugs? I saw you chasing that bug and came to tell you that sticky webs are the way to catch bugs! You need to weave a beautiful web and then when a bug flies into it you have a delicious meal!" Have a plastic bug fly into pretend web.

"But...spider, I can't spin beautiful webs like you do!" exclaimed gecko.

"hummm, I know, I have a friend who eats bugs and I will send them your way!" and spider crawled back up into his web to wait for more food.

SECOND ENCOUNTER: ENTER BAT!

Similar to first encounter. Bat flies to catch bugs but sadly, gecko cannot fly. "I saw you trying to catch that bug and I saw spider show you a web, but flying is really the way to catch bugs!"

THIRD ENCOUNTER: ENTER HEDGEHOG!

Similar to encounter above.

Gecko watches all the bugs flying by in the sky and tries to jump to catch one. Just then, a hedgehog came scurrying by. "You need to use your long nose and sniff sniff sniff around for bugs underground. Then, when you smell one you dig dig dig it up!" said hedgehog. Gecko looks at his nose and claws and says, "hedgehog, I am not made for sniffing and digging up bugs!"

FOURTH ENCOUNTER: ENTER FROG!

Similar to encounter above. Frog uses his sticky tongue to catch bugs but gecko's tongue doesn't stick out far enough. Have kids pretend to try and catch a bug with their tongues.

FINAL ENCOUNTER: ENTER CHAMELEON!

Gecko is feeling very sad and hungry. His tummy keeps growling and all he wants is to catch some bugs for breakfast. Along comes another animal, who is it? Another lizard, chameleon, I heard you were feeling sad because you couldn't catch any bugs. Gecko said, yes that is true. Chameleon, said, I think I can help you! What happened when you tried to catch the bugs? Gecko told chameleon how he had got very excited when he saw the bugs and had started running and jumping.

Gecko is so hungry. He sits down, exhausted from trying to catch bugs. All the while gecko has been trying to catch bugs, someone has been watching - someone else who is very hungry for breakfast! Who is this? That's right – it's coyote! Do you think coyote wants bugs for breakfast? No, coyote would like something a bit bigger...like gecko! Coyote quiet sneaks up behind gecko and gets closer and closer and closer until he right behind him and grabs his tail (have coyote pull off gecko's tail)! Gecko runs away as fast as he can and hides under a rock (your leg).

Coyote runs away with his snack.

Gecko pokes his head out and checks in both directions to make it's safe to come out (have kids help you check). Do you notice anything different about gecko? That's right! Gecko is missing his tail! But guess what – if gecko eats delicious bugs for a year, his tail will grow back! Now it's VERY important for gecko to find bugs. Do you see any bugs? Place bug on the floor while kids are looking around for bug.

What should gecko do to catch it?

Should he chase it? No, that didn't work earlier.

Should he build a web? No, gecko can't build a web like spider.

Should he fly up and catch it? No, gecko can't fly like bat.

Should he use his tongue? No, gecko's tongue isn't long like frog.

What do you think he should do? (Hopefully kids will say sneak up on it. If not, remind them how coyote caught gecko). Good idea! Gecko slowly crept closer and closer and closer and closer until Yummy! Gecko finally caught a delicious bug.

THE END.

ANIMAL ENCOUNTER

Now its time to guess what animal I brought today; It's an animal from our story. What were the animals in the story today? Have kids review the animals that were in the story and guess which animal they think you brought. Before bringing out our animal let's get some of our wiggles out. we can be nice and calm

OBSERVATIONS

Assistant: Collect puppets/supplies and help bring out animal and magic soap from mystery box.

Presenter: I have a special surprise for you. Inside that box over that I have a real, live zoo animal. Would you all like to meet him?

****make sure everyone is sitting down nicely on the edge of the tan carpet before bringing out the animal****

Presenter: What do you see? Any ideas what kind of animal this is? What color is he? How many legs does he have? What colors do you see?

TOUCH OPPORTUNITY: RULES

Presenter: Raise your hand if you would like a chance to touch our animal friend. Excellent!

- Go over rules:
 - One or two fingers
 - Touch the lizard on his/her back
 - Use magic soap after touching
- Have children practice petting their arm
- Choose line leader. Have children line-up behind leader. Ask adults to join their children to help.

Assistant: Help kids get in line, sit next to presenter with Magic Soap and help crowd control/answer questions

CLOSING

Thank you for joining us for Creature Feature. Join us every morning at 10:30 for a puppet story and a chance to meet a live zoo animal.