



## is for...Alligator March



Challenge children to form an alligator's mouth by holding their arms straight out in front of their body with one on top of the other. March forward while opening and closing their "mouths". Alligator marching is a great activity for bilateral coordination.



**Modification:** If alligator march is too difficult, children can march forward while clapping their hands with one on top of the other or walk forward rather than march.

**Literacy:** Phonological awareness: Say, " /ă/, /ă/, /ă/, A"

**Rhyming:** March like an alligator to the waiter and do it sooner, not later.

**Alliteration:** Angry alligators march in the alley.

**Read:** There's an Alligator Under My Bed by Mercer Mayer

### Fine Motor Craft: Alligator Hand Prints

Materials needed:

- Construction paper
- Green washable paint
- Wiggle eyes
- Glue
- White paper

In this activity, children utilize the shape of their hands to mimic an alligator's open mouth. Encourage children to position their hand to resemble the model before even painting it. Using their own body as an art tool provides a sensory-rich experience (exploring the texture of paint), while incorporating body awareness and the early skill of referencing a model to duplicate a fine motor art project. Provide children with the opportunity to practice using various other tools such as a glue bottle to glue on a wiggle eye and teeth to finish the alligator!



## **Gross Motor Game: Green Balloon (alligator) play**

*Equipment needed: Inflate green balloons and use a marker to draw on the balloons so they resemble alligators.*

*Rules of the game: In a large open area, give each child a balloon and encourage them to throw their balloon up and catch it. Then, encourage them to bat their balloon in the air while counting how many times they can tap their balloon before it reaches the ground. Challenge children to see how long they can keep their balloon in the air. Additional balloon activities include tossing the balloon up, clapping once and then catching the balloon; tossing the balloon up, turning around, and catching the balloon; tapping the balloon with their right hand then their left hand; and kicking their balloon across the room. For added weight and sound, dried beans and/or rice can be added to the balloons prior to blowing them up. Balloon play challenges children's eye-hand coordination with their eyes and hands working together smoothly to meet a challenge. Learning outcomes include eye-hand coordination, balance, and motor planning.*

### **Multisensory Writing**



**with alphabet magnets**



**in applesauce**



**with an aquadoodle**



**Aa**



**Apples**



**Acorns, Ants**