

Ily's Awesome Cheetah Adventure! (5-Day Plan)

Materials Needed For The Week:

- Computer or tablet with internet access (for videos and online articles)
 - Printer (optional, for worksheets or coloring pages)
 - Construction paper (various colors)
 - Crayons, colored pencils, or markers
 - Child-safe scissors
 - Glue stick
 - Pencils and eraser
 - Notebook or blank paper for a 'Cheetah Fact Journal'
 - Optional: Age-appropriate books about cheetahs or African animals
 - Optional: Modeling clay or playdough
 - Optional: Paper plates for a craft
 - Optional: Yarn (black)
-

Day 1: Meet the Cheetah - The World's Fastest Land Animal!

Focus: Introduction, Basic Facts, Speed

Learning Goals:

- Ily will learn what a cheetah is.
- Ily will discover 2-3 amazing facts about cheetahs, especially their speed.
- Ily will start her 'Cheetah Fact Journal'.

Activities:

1. **Warm-up (10 min):** Ask Ily, "What do you already know about cheetahs? What makes you curious about them?"
 2. **Cheetah Introduction Video (10-15 min):** Watch a short, exciting, age-appropriate video about cheetahs. Search for 'cheetah facts for kids' or 'cheetah running for kids' on a safe video platform.
 3. **Discussion (10 min):** Talk about what was most interesting in the video. What makes cheetahs special? How fast did the video say they can run? (Up to 70 mph or 112 kph!)
 4. **Cheetah Fact Journal - Page 1 (15-20 min):** Help Ily start her 'Cheetah Fact Journal.' Title the first page "All About Cheetahs!" Have her draw a picture of a cheetah and write down 2-3 facts learned today. For example: "Cheetahs are cats." "Cheetahs are the fastest land animal."
 5. **Speedy Cheetah Fun (10 min):** If space allows, have a 'cheetah run' in a safe area (like a
-

hallway or yard). Time Ily running a short distance. Then, talk about how much faster a cheetah would be! Emphasize safe play.

Day 2: Cheetah Homes and Meals

Focus: Habitat and Diet

Learning Goals:

- Ily will learn where cheetahs live (African savannas and grasslands).
- Ily will learn what cheetahs eat (their prey).

Activities:

1. **Review (5 min):** Look at yesterday's Cheetah Fact Journal page. Ask Ily to share one fact she remembers.
 2. **Where in the World? (15 min):** Show Ily a world map or globe. Point out Africa. Explain that cheetahs live on this continent, mostly in grassy plains called savannas. If you have an animal atlas, look for cheetah habitats together.
 3. **Savanna Diorama or Drawing (20-25 min):** Using construction paper, crayons, and maybe some natural items if available (like grass or small twigs), have Ily create a simple diorama or a detailed drawing of a savanna. What colors would she use? What kind of plants might be there?
 4. **What's for Dinner? (15 min):** Discuss what cheetahs eat. They are carnivores (meat-eaters). Their prey often includes gazelles, impalas, and young wildebeest. Watch a short, non-graphic video about cheetah hunting (focus on the chase, not the kill, to keep it age-appropriate).
 5. **Cheetah Fact Journal - Page 2 (15 min):** Title a new page "Cheetah Homes & Food." Ily can draw a cheetah in its savanna home and list some of its prey.
-

Day 3: Amazing Cheetah Bodies!

Focus: Physical Adaptations

Learning Goals:

- Ily will learn about specific body parts that help cheetahs survive (spots, tear marks, claws, tail, slender body).

Activities:

1. **Body Part Brainstorm (10 min):** Look at pictures of cheetahs (online or in books). Ask Ily,
-

"What special things do you notice about a cheetah's body?"

2. **Adaptations Exploration (20 min):** Discuss these key features one by one:

- **Spots:** Camouflage in tall grass.
- **'Tear Marks' (black lines from eyes to mouth):** Reduce sun glare, help them focus on prey.
- **Slender body, long legs, flexible spine:** Built for speed!
- **Small head:** Aerodynamic for running fast.
- **Non-retractable claws:** Like cleats on a running shoe, give extra grip.
- **Long tail:** Acts like a rudder for balance when turning at high speed.

3. **Label a Cheetah (20-25 min):** Provide an outline of a cheetah (you can quickly draw one or find a simple printable coloring page) or have Ily draw her own. Help her label the special parts discussed (spots, tear marks, tail, claws).

4. **Cheetah Moves (10 min):** Talk about how cheetahs move. Can Ily carefully try to stalk like a cheetah? Or pretend to use her 'tail' (an arm) for balance while making a slow turn?

5. **Cheetah Fact Journal - Page 3 (15 min):** Title a new page "Amazing Cheetah Body!" Ily can list or draw some of the adaptations and explain what they are for.

Day 4: Cheetah Families and Conservation

Focus: Cubs and Why Cheetahs Need Our Help

Learning Goals:

- Ily will learn about cheetah mothers and cubs.
- Ily will understand that cheetahs are vulnerable/endangered and why.

Activities:

1. **Cheetah Families (15 min):** Read an age-appropriate article or watch a video about cheetah mothers and their cubs. Discuss how the mother cheetah cares for her young and teaches them to hunt.

2. **Cheetah Challenges (15 min):** Gently introduce the concept that cheetahs face dangers. Main threats include:

- Habitat loss (people building on their land).
- Conflict with humans (farmers protecting livestock).
- Difficulty raising cubs (many dangers for young cheetahs).

Explain that because of these challenges, there are fewer cheetahs in the world, and they need protection.

3. **How Can We Help? (15-20 min):** Brainstorm ways people can help cheetahs and other endangered animals, even from far away. Ideas: learning about them, telling others, supporting conservation groups (when older), reducing waste to help the planet, drawing pictures to raise awareness.
 4. **'Help the Cheetahs' Poster (20 min):** Ily can make a small poster about cheetahs, perhaps with a message like "Save the Cheetahs!" or showing a cheetah in a safe home.
 5. **Cheetah Fact Journal - Page 4 (15 min):** Title a new page "Cheetah Families & Helping Cheetahs." Ily can draw a mother cheetah with cubs and write one thing she learned about cheetah conservation.
-

Day 5: Cheetah Celebration!

Focus: Review and Creative Expression

Learning Goals:

- Ily will review what she has learned about cheetahs.
- Ily will creatively share her knowledge.

Activities:

1. **Cheetah Quiz (10-15 min):** Ask Ily some fun review questions: What's the fastest land animal? Where do cheetahs live? What do they eat? What's one special thing about their body? Why do cheetahs need our help?
2. **My Cheetah Project (30-40 min):** Ily can choose one of these activities (or come up with her own!):
 - **Finish her 'Cheetah Fact Journal'** and decorate the cover. She can then 'read' it to you.
 - **Create a Cheetah Craft:** Make a paper plate cheetah face (use yellow paper plate, draw spots, add construction paper ears, use black yarn for tear marks and whiskers). Or make a cheetah out of modeling clay.
 - **Draw a Big Cheetah Scene:** A large drawing showing cheetahs in their habitat, maybe hunting or with cubs.
3. **Cheetah Story Time (15 min - optional):** If you have a cheetah storybook, read it together. Or, Ily could try to make up a short, simple story about a cheetah.
4. **Celebration! (5 min):** Praise Ily for all her hard work and learning throughout the week! Display her cheetah project or poster proudly.

Remember to be flexible and adjust activities based on Ily's interest and energy levels each day. The main goal is to have fun while learning about these incredible animals!
