

## Dolphin Dive: Exploring Ocean Homes!

**Materials:** Picture book about dolphins/ocean, large blue paper, crayons/markers, optional: dolphin stickers/template, play dough, dolphin video clip.

### Lesson Steps:

#### 1. Introduction: What is a Dolphin? (10 minutes)

- Start by making dolphin clicking sounds or showing a picture/toy dolphin. Ask: "What animal makes sounds like this?" or "What animal is this?"
- Ask: "What do you already know about dolphins? Where do they live?"
- Read the picture book about dolphins together. Pause to look at the pictures and talk about what you see. Point out the ocean setting.

#### 2. Where Do Dolphins Live? The Big Blue Ocean! (15 minutes)

- Discuss the pictures from the book showing the ocean. Ask: "What does the dolphin's home look like?" (Water, big, deep, maybe salty).
- Explain that the ocean is a huge body of salt water covering most of the Earth, and it's the perfect home for dolphins.
- Talk about dolphin characteristics needed for ocean life: strong swimmers, smooth skin, fins for steering.
- Focus on breathing: "Are dolphins fish? Do they breathe water?" Explain that dolphins are mammals, like us and dogs/cats, and need to breathe air! Show how they come to the surface and use their 'blowhole' (like a nose on top of their head) to breathe.
- *Optional:* Watch a short, child-friendly video clip of dolphins swimming and surfacing to breathe.

#### 3. Activity: Create Your Own Ocean Habitat! (20 minutes)

- Give the student the large sheet of blue paper. Say: "Let's make an ocean home for a dolphin!"
- Have them draw waves, the seafloor, maybe some seaweed or little fish using crayons or markers.
- They can draw their own dolphin swimming in the ocean, or use a sticker or template to add a dolphin to their habitat.
- Talk about their drawing: "Where is your dolphin swimming? What else is in its ocean home? How does it breathe?"
- *Optional:* Use blue play dough to make the ocean shape and grey/white play dough to sculpt a simple dolphin figure to place in the 'ocean'.

#### 4. Wrap-up & Review (5 minutes)

- Look at the ocean habitat artwork together.
- Ask review questions: "Where do dolphins live?" (Ocean) "Tell me one thing about a dolphin." (Has fins, breathes air, swims, etc.) "How do dolphins breathe?" (Come to the surface, use blowhole).
- Praise their great work and learning about dolphin homes!