6 by 6 Interactive Spaces: **Blue Sea**

Guidelines:
There may be more than 1 activity or sign under each skill area.
Signs should brief, but explain what to do and why it's important.

Overall skill area – **Have Fun With Books**

- Signs: (with monkey graphic)
- Pretend play is the way young kids master symbolic representation, which soon becomes necessary for all academic coursework.
  (from *NurtureShock* by Po Bronson)

Skill area - **Talk, Talk, Talk**

1. Activity - Hanging fish

- Sign(s): (with toucan graphic)
- Look up!
  Describe the different fish hanging from the ceiling. Talk about their colors, shapes, and sizes.
  Describing objects using rare or unusual words helps build a rich vocabulary.
- Supplies: soft fish to hang from the ceiling.

2. Activity - Fish sizes

- Signs: (toucan)
  Which fish are the same? Which fish are different?
  Put the fish in the bowl. How many will fit?
- Supplies:
  Die cut fish shapes and bowl from cling-vinyl.

Skill area – **Look for Letters Everywhere**

1. Activity – Fishing

- Sign(s): (with peacock graphic)
- Fishing for letters.
  What letter did you catch?
  Can you find that same letter on a blue fish?
  Once children begin to recognize letters, playing finding and matching games is a great way to practice their skills.
- Supplies: 2 fishing poles; set of magnetic letters; set of cut and laminated fish shapes with letters

2. Activity – Ocean in a bag.
   - Sign (peacock):
   -Ocean in a bag.
   Press the plastic with your fingers to make shapes or letters in the goo. You can also make fish shapes by using the stamps.
   Recognizing shapes helps children learn to recognize letters. Find fun ways to help your child learn the alphabet.
   - Supplies: blue goo bags; Rubbery fish stamps

3. Activity – Mystery Box
   - Sign (peacock)

   Can you find the pictured objects in the Mystery Box without looking?
   Matching words & pictures to real objects helps kids learn that print has meaning. Doing this by using their sense of touch helps reinforce nerve connections in the brain.
   - Supplies: wooden box with holes; laminated pictures of sea-related items with descriptive words

Skill Area – **Notice Print All Around You**

1. Activity – Name the fish
   - Sign(s): (with kangaroo graphic)

- Name the fish.
  Write a name for our fish on a sticky note. Place the note on the walls underneath the aquarium.
  As you child writes (or you help), say the letters and the words aloud. This helps children know that spoken words can be represented in print.
- Supplies:
  Live fish and fish bowl/aquarium (not included!)

2. Activity – Prewriting
   - Sign: (kangaroo)

- Make waves.
  Put a pencil in the guide then glide along pattern board.
  We read and write English from left-to-right but scanning in a straight line is not a natural process. This activity lets children re-create the motions they'll use to form letters when they begin to write.

Skill Area – **Tell Stories About Everything**

1. Activity – Fish net weaving
   - Sign(s): (with turtle graphic)

- Caught in the net!
  Weave the ribbon through the net to connect all the fish.
  Putting items in order (sequencing) helps reinforce the concept of beginning, middle, and end; those concepts help improve reading comprehension.
- Supplies: fishing net; laminated pictures of fish from the book; ribbon

2. Activity – Retell the story.
   - Sign: (turtle graphic)

- Little fish, bigger fish, biggest fish.
  Retell the story of *Blue Sea*
  One fish fits through all the holes, one fish only fits through one, and one fish is too big for any. OUCH! Take the pieces home to tell the story to others.

Skill Area - **Take Time to Rhyme, Sing & Play Word Games**

1. Activity - Sounds of the sea

- Signs: (goat)
- Sounds of the sea.
  Listen carefully and see if you can hear the ocean waves.
  Talk to your child about other ocean or water-related things.
- Ask questions like:
  - *What kinds of animals live near the ocean?*
  - *What do you think it would feel like to swim in the ocean?*
  - *Why are some waves louder than others?*
  - *How big do you think a whale really is?*
- Supplies: CD of ocean sounds, CD player

2. Activity: Rhyme written on chalkboard
   Have you ever been swimming on a bright sunny day
   With all the little fishes swimming in and out the bay
   With their hands in their pockets and their pockets on their pants
   And all the little fishes do a hootchie-kootchie dance
   OR
   Any sea-related rhyme

BLUE SEA
EARLY LITERACY KIT CONTENTS

Included:	**Returned**
___2 wooden puzzles (US Toy)	___
___2 foam puzzles (US Toy)	___
___pre-writing pattern boards and frame with paper rolls (Lakeshore)	___
___3 blue goo bags (tempera paint in double-zip lock)	___
___set of blue rubber fish shapes and geometric stamp (US Toy)	___
___3 fish nets for weaving (Michael's)	___
___variety of ribbon for weaving (Michael's)	___
___2 fishing poles, set of magnetic letters (US Toy); set of die cut fish	___
___4 not-for-checkout paperback books	___
___12 soft fish for hanging (US Toy)	___
___Mystery box; shells and laminated pictures of items (US Toy)	___
___Assortment of decorative suction fish	___
___Highsmith pictures of sea creatures	___
___Die-cut construction paper fish for retelling the story	___
___Cling vinyl fish of different sizes and fishing bowl (Accu-cut)	___
___Signs	___
___CD /Ocean Waves	___

What you need to provide:
Pencils
Baskets/containers
Live Fish and fish bowl!!!! (If you choose to do that activity)
CD player

Johnson County Library