

MAKING THE DINOSAUR EGG AND BABY

MATERIALS: Construction paper, scissors, crayons, stapler

1. Reproduce 2 egg patterns and 1 baby dinosaur pattern for each child.
2. Cut out all pieces.
3. Let the children color the eggs and dinosaur.
4. Staple the 2 eggs together around the bottom half of the eggs.
5. The baby dinosaur can be put "into" the egg.
 - The text can be left showing on one egg, turning the other one to the inside, or the egg pattern can be traced and cut so no text will be on the eggs and the children can tell their own story about the baby dinosaur.

DINOSAUR BABIES

This egg is approximately the same size as the eggs of a Protoceratops, although their eggs were a bit thinner and more tubular in shape. Protoceratops eggs were the first dinosaur eggs ever found. Evidence indicates that the earlier dinosaurs laid their eggs, covered them to keep them warm, then left them, much like turtles and lizards do today. As time went on, evidence shows that later dinosaurs protected their nests and brought food to the nest for the baby dinosaurs to eat. They also probably guarded their young from enemies for weeks, possibly months. Crocodiles are the only modern reptiles that guard their nests and young.

Baby Protoceratops probably weighed about 2 pounds when they hatched. Scientists think that they hatched without their neck frill, but that it grew in very quickly and was helpful in protecting them against predators.

