

Animal Guessing Games

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

Here are ideas and activities to try this week with your child. Each activity is based on one of the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles of early literacy development and is designed to engage your child, stimulate his or her literacy skills, and enhance the bonds between you.

- **SHARE BOOKS** When reading books that ask questions of your child, pause if your child does not answer right away—sometimes we answer for him, not giving enough time for his response. Then, repeat his answer, if it is correct. For example, you might say, “That’s right—a goat says ‘maa, maa.’”
- **SHARE WORDS** What animal names and sounds can you share with your child to introduce new vocabulary? Examples might include: A peacock makes a screaming sound. A badger growls. A seal barks. What else barks?
- **SHARE RHYMES** Share some nursery rhymes about animals, such as “Little Bo Peep,” “This Little Piggy,” and “Hey, Diddle, Diddle.”
- **SHARE SONGS** In addition to the songs we sang in storytime, sing other songs about animal sounds and movements, such as “Old MacDonald Had a Farm” and “Goin’ to the Zoo.” (Several versions of this song are available at www.youtube.com.)
- **SHARE STORIES** Help your child make up silly stories like *The Cow Who Clucked* with different mixed-up animal sounds.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Act out different types of animals with your child. Perform animal moves, and make animal sounds with your child.
- **SHARE WRITING** Have your child make animals out of play dough; this develops fine motor skills. Older children can trace animal stencils or animal cookie cutters—a great prewriting skill!

Here are the words to the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with your child throughout the week, you will help him or her make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

Songs

It’s Time for Storytime

(sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”)

It’s time for storytime, (*Clap hands to beat*)
It’s time for storytime,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
It’s time for storytime.

We listen to some stories, (*Two fingers point to ears*)
We listen to some stories,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
We listen to some stories.

We sing some songs and rhymes, (*Two fingers point to mouth*)
We sing some songs and rhymes,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
We sing some songs and rhymes.

And now we’ll have some fun, (*Pat knees or legs*)
And now we’ll have some fun,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
And now we’ll have some fun!

Animal Sounds

(sung to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”)

The lion likes to roar like this:
(*Hold hands at sides of mouth, roaring*)
Roar, roar!

The lion likes to roar like this:
Roar, roar!
The lion likes to roar, and he also likes to snarl,
The lion likes to roar like this:
Roar, roar!

The snake likes to hiss like this: (*Move hand like a snake*)
Hiss, hiss!
The snake likes to hiss like this:
Hiss, hiss!
The snake likes to hiss, and he also likes to rattle,
The snake likes to hiss like this:
Hiss, hiss!

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

The bear likes to growl like this:
(Lumber like a bear with arms at sides)

Growl, growl!

The bear likes to growl like this:

Growl, growl!

The bear likes to growl, and he also likes to grumble,

The bear likes to growl like this:

Growl, growl!

Cat Goes Fiddle-I-Fee

(Have children join in making the animal sounds)

I had a cat

And the cat pleased me,

I fed my cat

By yonder tree.

Cat goes fiddle-i-fee.

I had a cow,

And the cow pleased me,

I fed my cow

By yonder tree.

Cow goes moo, moo, moo,

Cat goes fiddle-i-fee.

I had a hen,

And the hen pleased me,

I fed my hen

By yonder tree.

Hen goes cluck, cluck cluck,

Cow goes moo, moo, moo,

Cat goes fiddle-i-fee.

Cows and Chickens

(sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

If you're cows and you know it, say "Moo,"

If you're cows and you know it, say "Moo,"

If you're cows and you know it, then you really
ought to show it,

If you're cows and you know it, say "Moo."

If you're chickens and you know it, say "Cluck,"

If you're chickens and you know it, say "Cluck,"

If you're chickens and you know it, then you really
ought to show it,

If you're chickens and you know it, say "Cluck."

Rhymes/Creative Dramatics

Animal Moves

(can be sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

This is the way the gray elephant walks,

(Children walk like an elephant and then stomp)

The gray elephant walks,

The gray elephant walks,

This is the way the gray elephant walks,
Stompity, stompity, stomp.

This is the way the white duck walks,
(Children walk like a duck and then slap feet on floor)

The white duck walks,

The white duck walks,

This is the way the white duck walks,

Slappity, slappity, slap.

This is the way the brown bear walks,

(Children walk like a bear and thump on the floor)

The brown bear walks,

The brown bear walks,

This is the way the brown bear walks,

Thumpity, thumpity, thump.

Jump or Jiggle

(Suit actions to words)

Frogs jump. Caterpillars hump.

Worms wiggle. Bugs jiggle.

Rabbits hop. Horses clop.

Snakes slide. Seagulls glide.

Mice creep. Deer leap.

Puppies bounce. Kittens pounce.

Lions stalk—but—I walk!

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Move Like an Animal!

(Children follow movements as given)

Can you hop like a rabbit?

Can you jump like a frog?

Can you waddle like a duck?

Can you run like a dog?

Can you fly like a bird?

Can you swim like a fish?

Can you sit back down

And be as still as this?

Wave Goodbye

Wave high. Wave low. (Suit motions to words)

I think it's time, we gotta go.

Wave your elbows. Wave your toes.

Wave your tongue and wave your nose.

Wave your knees. Wave your lips.

Blow a kiss, with fingertips.

Wave your ears. Wave your hair.

Wave your belly and derriere.

Wave your chin. Wave your eye.

Wave your hand and say "goodbye."

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