

Down on the Farm

Tips 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.

- 1. SHARE BOOKS** Build reading into your daily routine, and also let it happen spontaneously as the day permits. Books about animals for the very young often have touch-and-feel features, which are very stimulating for babies and allow for interaction with the book.
- 2. SHARE SOUNDS** We heard lots of farm animal sounds today. There are all kinds of animals in our world to which you can draw your baby's attention. Introduce your child to new animal sounds. You'll eventually find that although your baby might not be able to say "dog" yet, he says "woof woof" when he sees a dog.
- 3. SHARE WORDS** Expand your baby's language by adding description to the farm animals you talk about. Instead of just "cow," talk about the big white cow with the brown spots and the bell around her neck. The more words your baby is exposed to, the bigger her vocabulary.
- 4. SHARE RHYMES** This week, continue sharing the rhymes we introduced during today's storytime. Share other nursery rhymes that you might remember about farm animals, such as "Little Bo Peep," "Little Boy Blue," or "Trot Trot to Boston."
- 5. SHARE SONGS** You can sing the songs we used in storytime, or any other farm animal songs that you know, such as "The Farmer in the Dell" and "Mary Had a Little Lamb."
- 6. SHARE STORIES** Tell stories using stuffed animals or any type of toys. You can re-tell the ones you heard at storytime or make up your own. Ask questions throughout, and give your child time to respond. Even if what you hear is babble, this means your baby is stimulated and is participating in the narrative.
- 7. SHARE PLAYTIME** Show your child some pictures (or plastic replicas) of different farm animals. Have a conversation about the animal ("See the pigs?"), talk about what it looks like ("I see their pink skin and brown spots"), what it likes to do ("The pigs like to roll in the mud"), and what noise it makes ("Pigs go oink!"). Then act out the behaviors of the animal.

Songs and Rhymes for Down on the Farm

Here are the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with them every day, you will help your child make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

Songs

If You're Happy to Be Here

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

If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*
If you're happy to be here, then place a smile there, *(Point to mouth)*
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands. *(Clap hands)*

If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*
If you're ready to have some fun, then join in everyone,
(Motion hands to join in)
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands. *(Clap hands)*

Baa, Baa, Black Sheep

Baa, baa, black sheep, have you any wool?
Yes sir, yes sir, *(Nod head "yes")*
Three bags full. *(Hold up three fingers)*
One for the farmer, *(Hold up one finger)*
One for his dame, *(Hold up second finger)*
And one for the little boy *(Hold up third finger)*
Who lives down the lane.
Baa, baa, black sheep, have you any wool?
Yes sir, yes sir, *(Nod head "yes")*
Three bags full. *(Hold up three fingers)*

Bingo

There was a farmer had a dog,
And Bingo was his name-o,
B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O, *(Clap each letter while singing)*
And Bingo was his name-o.
(Repeat)

Old MacDonald Had a Farm

Old MacDonald had a farm—E-I-E-I-O.
And on this farm he had some cows—E-I-E-I-O.
With a moo moo here, and a moo moo there,
Here a moo, there a moo, everywhere a moo moo,
Old MacDonald had a farm—E-I-E-I-O.

Additional Verses

...And on this farm he had some sheep (baa, baa)
...And on this farm he had some chickens (cluck, cluck)

The More We Get Together

The more we get together, *(Sway child from side to side in time to music)*
Together, together,
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.
For your friends are my friends, *(Point to child, then to self)*
And my friends are your friends, *(Point to self, then to child)*
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.

Additional Verse

The more we play together...

Rhymes

Shoe the Old Horse

Shoe the old horse, *(Tap baby's right foot)*
Shoe the old mare, *(Tap baby's left foot)*
But let the little pony ride
Bare, bare, bare! *(Tap baby's feet together)*

This Little Piggy

This little piggy went to market, *(Wiggle big toe)*
This little piggy stayed home, *(Wiggle second toe)*
This little piggy had roast beef, *(Wiggle middle toe)*
This little piggy had none, *(Wiggle fourth toe)*
And this little piggy cried
Whee, whee, whee, all the way home! *(Wiggle pinky toe)*

To Market, to Market

To market, to market, to buy a fat pig.
(Bounce baby on knees or lap)
Home again, home again, jiggety-jig. *(Lift baby up on "jig")*
To market, to market, to buy a fat hog.
Home again, home again, jiggety-jog. *(Lift baby up on "jog")*