

# Zoo Day

## 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** Let your child help pick out books about zoos and zoo animals and read them together!
- **SHARE WORDS** Share a nonfiction zoo book and some unique animals with your child to increase her vocabulary. Here are some fun new animals for your child to learn: anteater, baboon, cheetah, giraffe, hippopotamus, jaguar, koala, panda, rhinoceros, sloth, and wombat.
- **SHARE RHYMES** Play a rhyming game: “I went to the zoo, and so did you, and this is what we saw...” Let your child supply the names of different animals.
- **SHARE SONGS** What other songs do you know about how animals move or sounds they make? Sing those in addition to the songs we sang in storytime.
- **SHARE STORIES** As in the book *Dear Zoo*, ask your child to help construct a story about what animals the zoo has sent your child and what animal he would like in the final basket.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Act like zoo animals and make appropriate animal sounds. Build a cave with a sheet and chairs for an animal retreat. Have your child sort zoo animals (photos, plastic, or stuffed) into categories, such as two legs; four legs; animals that have feathers, fur, or scales; and animals that walk, swim, or fly.
- **SHARE WRITING** On a sheet of paper, write “I wrote to the zoo, and they sent me a pet.” Have your child draw the pet the zoo sent. Drawing helps children develop the muscles they will need to become writers. Drawing involves grasping a crayon or marker, holding the paper, and applying the right amount of pressure with the writing instrument—all at the same time.

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!

### We’re Going to the Zoo

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

We’re going to the zoo, (*Walk in place*)  
We’re going to the zoo,  
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,  
We’re going to the zoo.

### Additional Verses

We’ll hear the lions roar ...  
(*Open and close hands like a lion roaring*)  
We’ll see the elephants stomp ... (*Stomp in place*)  
We’ll see the monkeys swing ...  
(*Pretend to hold rope and swing*)  
We’ll hear the bears growl ...  
(*Open and close hands like a bear growling*)

# Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

## I Went to the Zoo Today

(sung to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush")

I went to the zoo today, *(Clap to beat first three lines)*

The zoo today,

The zoo today,

I saw a lion, *(Shield eyes as if looking around)*

And what did he say?

The lion said, ROAR! *(Make lion face and "roar")*

### Additional Verses

I saw a tiger ... GROWL!

I saw a rhino ... SNORT!

I saw a chimpanzee ... OOO-OOO-OOO!

## Down at the City Zoo

(sung to the tune of "Down at the Station")

*(Do motions as described)*

Down at the city zoo, early in the morning,

See the giant elephants, standing in a row.

Watch them as they raise their trunks,

Spraying water everywhere.

Stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, off they go!

Down at the city zoo, early in the morning,

See the fluffy polar bears, standing on a stone.

Watch them as they jump and

Dive into the water.

Splash, splash, splash, splash, off they go!

Down at the city zoo, early in the morning,

See the golden lions pacing to and fro.

Watch them as they wander,

Oh! They're coming my way!

Roar, roar, roar, roar, off I go!

## Rhymes

### Five Silly Monkeys

Five silly monkeys *(Child holds up five fingers)*

Swingin' on a vine, *(Wave fingers)*

Laughin' in the treetops

Everything was fine.

But then the wind blew—

*(Put hands beside mouth and blow)*

One monkey fell—

There were five monkeys,

*(Hold up five fingers)*

Now there are four.

*(Adult helps child fold down one finger)*

### Additional Verses

Four silly monkeys ...

Three silly monkeys ...

Two silly monkeys ...

One silly monkey *(Child holds up one finger)*

Swingin' on a vine, *(Wave finger)*

Laughin' in the treetops,

Everything was fine.

But then the wind blew, *(Put hands beside mouth and blow)*

The monkey fell—

No more monkeys,

That's the end of this tale! *(Hold fist up)*

## The Elephant

An elephant goes like this and that, *(Stomp feet slowly)*

He's oh so big! *(Hold hands to show "big")*

And he's oh so fat. *(Hold hands to show "fat")*

He has no fingers, *(Point to fingers)*

He has no toes, *(Point to toes)*

But goodness gracious,

What a nose!

*(Hold arms straight down, hands clasped, like an elephant trunk)*

## Animal Actions

*(Do motions as described)*

Can you stomp like an elephant?

Can you hop like a kangaroo?

Can you clap like a seal

That performs at the zoo?

Can you snap like an alligator?

Can you swim like a fish?

And then be totally still

And quiet like 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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