StorTime Thoughts

Making animal sounds helps children build Phonological Awareness, or the ability to hear the smaller sounds that make up words. Did you know that different languages use different words for the sounds animals make? For example, in English, roosters say “cock-a-doodle-doo,” but in German they say “kicheriki.” That’s because different languages are made up of different sounds! Animal sounds, rhyming words, and even nonsense words will help your child learn the sounds of your language. If you speak more than one language, read and sing with your child in each language so they learn the different sounds of each.

Ebooks & Audiobooks

- Cat Goes Fiddle-i-Fee by Paul Galdone
- Over In The Meadow by Barefoot Books
- Duck on a Bike by David Shannon
- It’s A Tiger! by David LaRochelle
- Bark, George by Jules Feiffer

Songs & Rhymes

- Alphabet Song
- Old MacDonald Had a Farm
- Sleeping Bunnies
- Bumblebee [Buzz Buzz]
- I Bought Me a Cat
- Over in the Meadow
- Five Little Monkeys Sitting in a Tree

Print Books Found at The Library

- Cat Goes Fiddle-i-Fee by Paul Galdone
- Over in the Meadow by Jane Cabrera
- Over in the Grasslands: On an African Savanna by Marianne Collins Berkes
- Duck on a Bike by David Shannon
- It’s a Tiger! by David LaRochelle
- Bark, George by Jules Feiffer
- Row, Row, Row Your Boat by Jane Cabrera
- Say Hello Like This by Mary Murphy
- Baby Says “Moo!” by Joann Early Macken

Activities & Games

- Animal Stick Puppets
SAMPLE STORYTIME

This is a sample of how you could organize the books, songs, & rhymes, but please do what feels right for you and your little one!

Starting Song: Alphabet Song

Rhyme/Song: I Bought Me a Cat [This folk song is also called “Fiddle-i-Fee.” In it, animals make some silly sounds! Watch the stick puppets or listen to the song with your child. Act like the animals, make the silly sounds, or dance and play shakers!]

Book One: Duck on a Bike by David Shannon

Rhyme/Song: Old MacDonald Had a Farm [Ask your child to suggest animals to sing about. Can your child remember any of the farm animals from the book?]

Rhyme/Song: Hey Diddle Diddle [Act out this traditional nursery rhyme with your child several times. Then, for preschoolers, leave out a few words such as “moon” and “spoon,” and see if your child can fill them in.]

Book Two: It’s a Tiger! by David LaRochelle [Encourage your child to act out this adventure story, even if it means moving all around the room!]

Rhyme/Song: Five Little Monkeys Sitting in a Tree

Rhyme/Song: Over in the Meadow [Act like the animals with your child.]

Book Three: Bark, George by Jules Feiffer

Final Rhyme/Song: Sleeping Bunnies

After Storytime Activity/Game: Animal Stick Puppets

Instructions:
1. Help your child draw and cut out several of their favorite animals.
2. Attach each animal to a craft stick, straw, or stick from your yard to make a handle.
3. Hold a puppet show with your child, making the animals “talk” to each other in animal sounds. If you don’t know a word for an animal’s sound, encourage your child to make one up! For example, what sound could you make for a giraffe, rabbit, or unicorn?