



VIRTUAL CHILDCARE PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES

VOLUME #7 ALL ABOUT ANIMALS

HELLO PARENTS,

Animals, big and small, are an important part of our life and children love to explore all kinds of living things. They find them exciting because they can see how animals move, eat, play, interact, and communicate. Even their favourite toys are usually animals! Interacting with living creatures helps children develop empathy and care for others and understand their own emotions. Children love to pretend to be animals because they can do amazing things like flying, roaring, or moving in unusual ways. This newsletter is all about animals.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 - 18 MONTHS)

SONGS ABOUT ANIMALS

Sing to your infant, songs with animal sounds and encourage your child to repeat these sounds. Use toy animals to represent the animals from the songs. Popular favourites include "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" or "Baby Shark".

Sing with your child "Animal Sounds" song while going for a walk or during bath time. [Click here](#) to view the song.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

MOVE LIKE AN ANIMAL

Pretend with your child to move like different animals: waddle like a penguin or wave your arms like a monkey. It is a great opportunity for your child to learn new words and learn about their own body parts.

[Click here](#) to watch an animated video that shows various wild animals.

BOOK READING

[Click here](#) to read a funny repetitive rhyming book about a hairy dog.

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Practice with your child animal noises – it is a fun way to help them learn animal sounds in your language and in English. Help them notice the difference. It's a good way for young children to learn the basic sounds of a language.
- Look out the window or go outside to find as many animals as you can. Look for dogs, cats, rabbits, squirrels, birds, insects, snails, and more. Talk with your child about how big they are, what colour they are, how they move, what houses they make, etc.
- Later your child can draw these animals.
- Older children can do research on the internet and find information about animals in our area.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

ANIMAL HABITATS

- Have your child collect some plastic animals.
- Go outside and gather sticks and rocks.
- Have your child create a habitat for their animals.
- Talk about how different animals build their homes and how they keep their families safe.

[Click here](#) to watch "Guess the Animal" game and have fun.

BOOK READING

Challenge your child to listen to clues and guess what these black and white animals are. [Click here](#) to read the book.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

ANIMAL CHARADES

MATERIALS:

- Cards with pictures of different animals (you or your child can draw them).

DIRECTIONS:

- The first person draws a card and looks at the picture but does not show it to others.
- The person who drew the card acts as the animal on the card without using any words.
- The rest of the players have to guess what animal it is.
- Take turns drawing cards.

After the game, have fun watching [Animals in Action](#) song.

BOOK READING

[Click here](#) to read and listen to "Animal in Camouflage" book and guess which animal is hiding.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

FAVOURITE ANIMAL PRESENTATION

Ask your child to research and learn about their favourite animal in the world and make a presentation for the whole family. The presentation may include slides on the computer or your child's own drawings, maps, toy animals, etc.

Take your family on a virtual trip to the [San Diego Zoo](#).

MORE ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY:

Listen to the sounds of the birds in [this video](#) and later identify birds outside in your neighborhood.

[This site](#) has games and activities for the whole family.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

PLEASE, SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK, COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS TO CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG

