



FARM ANIMALS

*The opposite of play is not work.
It's depression.*
Brian Sutton-Smith

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4Cs
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Child Care

Barnyard Banter by Denise Fleming

Barnyard Banter has colorful appealing illustrations of barnyard animals.

Ages: 0 to 3 Years

Explore the Book Ideas:

- Ask children to make the animals sounds as you read the book.

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Play "Farm Animals" with the wooden farm set complete with a barn, animals, tractor, and more for little ones to act out the story.

Kit Supplies: Farm Play Set





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Those who play rarely become brittle in the face of stress or lose the healing capacity for humor.
Stuart Brown, MD

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Barnyard Dance by Sandra Boynton

Barnyard Dance can be used to bring movement and singing into the literacy experience. Mimic the movements of the animals as you read.

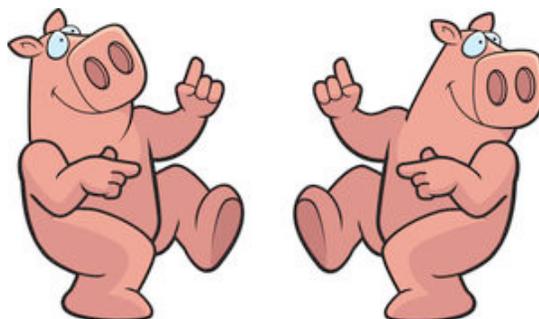
Ages: 0 to 3 years

Explore the Book Ideas:

- Tell children to “Stomp Your Feet” and “Clap Your Hands” on first page of book; follow dance moves throughout the story (i.e. bow, twirl, bounce, strut, spin)

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Dance to the fun Sandra Boynton CD. Have kids clap along to the music.
Kit Supplies: Sandra Boynton CD
- 2) Teach children simple dance steps: do-si-do, promenade, spin, twirl, etc. and DANCE! Have fun integrating the dance steps throughout the day (e.g. glide over to the sink).
Kit Supplies: Dance Steps for Young Children Instructions
- 3) In warm weather, let toddlers step in water in bare feet then “paint up” the sidewalk or driveway.





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Play is the work of the child.
Maria Montessori

Big Fat Hen by Keith Baker

Big Fat Hen gives the opportunity for children to learn to count along to a classic children's rhyme.

Ages: 0 to 3 years

Explore the Book Ideas:

- Before reading the book, teach the children the nursery rhyme "One, Two Buckle My Shoe" (cadence for Big Fat Hen)
Kit Supplies: Copy of nursery rhyme

Playful Activity Ideas:

1) Explore words that rhyme with the last word of each sentence to replace the word in the book. i.e., "1, 2 cows say moo!" with "1, 2, cows say shoe!"

2) Act out the story as it's being read. Have kids take off their shoes before you begin and open the doors to the space.

1..2.. buckle my shoe

3..4.. shut the door

5..6.. pick up sticks

7..8.. lay them straight

9..10.. a big fat Hen!

Kids put on their shoes

Reader shut the door

Kids pretend to pick up sticks

Kids lay sticks in a straight line

Reader put on hen puppet!

Kit Supplies: Hen puppet

3) Play with the farm lacing beads asking the

children to identify each animal, person, or object on each bead. Kids will love stringing the beads together. The pieces also stand upright for pretend play.

Kit Supplies: farm lacing beads





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Play is the highest form of research.
Albert Einstein

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I Went Walking by Sue Williams

I Went Walking has simple illustrations, good cadence and rhyme of text, and predictable patterns. It's about a boy's exciting adventure with a menagerie of colorful animals.

Ages: 0 to 6 years

Explore the Book Ideas:

- Ask children to read along with you predicting what comes next.
- Count the number of animals following the child on the walk.
- Act out the story with children acting out each of the characters. The teacher is the narrator and all children can in unison provide the answer to "What did you see?"

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) After you read the book, go on a walk (inside or outside). As you're walking ask the children what they see and talk about it (colors, size, numbers). When you get back from your walk, provide materials for each child to make a book about what they saw.

Kit Supplies: blank books

