



## BABY ANIMALS

At first glance babies seem helpless and incapable of doing much in their new environment, but they are using all their senses to learn about their world. They may be able to distinguish their mothers' voices, faces, touch and smells from any other person in the room. Wait. Are we talking about baby humans or baby animals? Both. A calf may need to stand immediately in order to nurse, while a kitten with its eyes closed may take a little longer to be fully mobile. Babies, toddlers and twos can relate to baby animals and their families. Something that is small and needy like themselves.

- In this kit are fiction and non-fiction books about the lives of baby animals. Engage your child by pointing and talking about what they see. “See the yellow duckling? Where is the mother duck?” They will be learning the scientific skills of observation, description, making connections
- By allowing them to play with the toys, they will safely explore the world around them with you helping with the narration and facts. “These animals can be found on the farm. The horse has a foal. It says “neigh.”
- Toddlers will begin using questions to better understand their world. “Why?” is the beginning of pre-science skills. Scientists of all ages ask the same basic questions.
- Science can be fun! A lot can be learned by singing, playing, talking, reading, and writing.
- Human babies have an advantage over other animal babies. They have a relatively long childhood that encourages exploration, but with parents close by for safety and help. During childhood the brain is wired to explore and try new things.

	Activity #1 “Singing”	Activity #2 “Movement”	Activity #3 “TLC”
Language	Animal names	Action verbs	Description
Math	One-to-one Correspondence	spatial awareness	
Science	Correlation	Observation	Cause & effect



## BABY ANIMALS

### # 1 – Old MacDonald Had a Farm

**SUMMARY:** Sing or chant the song “Old MacDonald” with your child, emphasizing the sounds that the animals make. You can use the puppet book or the toys animals as you sing.

#### WORDS TO USE:

- Farm – a piece of land used for raising crops or animals
- Animal names
- Sound – in this activity noises that the animals make

#### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Old MacDonald Puppet book from kit
- Toy or puppet animals from kit
- Animal Sound blocks

#### ACTIVITY:

- Hold one of the farm animals so the child can see it and you say its name, then make its sound.
- Repeat for all of the animals
- Sing all of the verses of the song.
- Move the animals slowly back and forth in front of the baby to allow him/her to track it and connect the picture of the animal with the sounds that it makes.
- Encourage the child to follow along with the song with his/her body movements, eyes, or voice.
- Repeat using different animals.
- Let the children touch and hold the animals.
- Get silly. With the older children mix up the animal sounds. Animal chaos!
- Let the older children choose which animal comes next.

#### OBSERVATIONS:

- Observe how your baby or toddler reacts to the rhythm of the sounds and song.
- Babies may be just babbling along, but this is the beginning of language.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Babies, birth to six months, will follow moving objects with their eyes and begin to focus on small objects. They will attempt to make a variety of sounds and will react to the sight of a toy.
- Babies, six to twelve months, will imitate speech sounds and sounds of animals. They will look at pictures in books and will show interest in certain words and gestures.
- Toddlers will begin to make the animal sounds without the need to echo the adult.
- Talking and singing will help your child learn that language can be fun.

## SUGGESTED READING: Board Books

E Carle	My Very First Book of Animal Sounds
E Cousins	Farm Animals
E Everywhere	Everywhere a Moo Moo
E Hill	Spot on the Farm
E Katz	Baby at the Farm
E Quack	Quack, Quack!
E Reasoner	Animal Babies
E Sirett	Baby Baa Baa
E Watt	Numbers with Farm Animals

Old MacDonald Had a Farm

Old MacDonald had a farm  
Ee-ay, ee-ay, oh!  
And on that farm he had some \_\_\_\_\_  
Ee-ay, ee-ay, oh!  
With a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ here,  
And a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ there,  
Here a \_\_\_\_\_, there a \_\_\_\_\_.  
Everywhere a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_!  
Old MacDonald had a farm,  
Ee-ay, ee-ay, oh!

Cat – Meow-meow  
Cows – Moo-moo  
Dog – Woof-woof  
Duck – quack-quack  
Goose – Honk-honk  
Horse – Neigh-neigh  
Pigs – Oink-oink  
Rooster – Cock-a-doodle-doo  
Sheep – Baa-baa



## BABY ANIMALS

### # 2 – Animal Moves

**SUMMARY:** Move like an animal. Hold the baby gently when you move or have the toddler imitate your movements.

**VOCABULARY:**

Crawl - to move slowly with the body close to the ground. Move on hands and knees.

Fly – to move through the air

Gallop – fast, springing movement like a horse

Hop – a short quick jump especially on one leg

Move – to go from one place to another

Run – to go at a pace faster than a walk

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

Toy animals in kit

Pictures of animals from the internet or a magazine

**ACTIVITY:**

- Pretend to move like an animal. You may be holding the youngest to have them feel the movement.  
This is the way a horse gallops  
This is the way a dog runs  
This is the way a bird flies  
This is the way a rabbit hops  
This is the way a worm crawls  
This is the way a cat creeps
- How else might other animals move?

**OBSERVATION:**

- Children are all different so just have fun moving together.
- Babies can enjoy watching you move along with other siblings.
- Try making animal sounds as you move.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Two year olds are beginning to follow simple two step directions
- By describing your actions out loud, children are learning to use words to express ideas and thoughts.
- A four to eight month might be starting to move either forward or backwards, pulling or pushing with his arms.
- Toddlers show an increasing ability to remember and participate in imitative play.
- Toddlers seem to be on the move constantly, and show increasing large muscle control.

## **SUGGESTED READING:**

E Asch	I Can Blink
E Davis	Who Hops?
E Harwood	Peekaboo Puppy
E Baby	Baby Animals
E Schaefer	Cool Time Song
E Slier	Animal Signs
E Yoon	Do Cows Meow?
E Yoon	Super Babies on the Move
E Young	Watch Me Hop
E Ziefert	Swing like a Monkey
E Ziefert	Zoo Parade



## BABY ANIMALS

### #3 – CARING FOR THE ANIMALS

**SUMMARY:** You and your child can pretend to take care of the toy animals and give them some TLC (tender loving care)

#### WORDS TO USE:

Care – serious attention  
Doctor – a person skilled in healing others  
Sick – affected with a disease or illness, not well  
Veterinarian – a doctor who gives medical treatment to animals  
Cow/calf  
Horse/foal  
Sheep/lamb  
Hen/chick  
Duck/duckling  
Goose/gosling  
Pig/piglet

#### MATERIALS NEEDED:

Animal toys from kit  
Stuffed toys from home or puppets from the library  
Small Boxes or baskets  
Tissue, paper towels, scarves

#### ACTIVITY:

- Gather the toys from the kit or stuffed animals from home.
- Try to match up the animal toys to appropriate sized “cages” or “beds.”
- Use the tissue, paper towel, scarf or other material as a blanket, bandage, etc.
- How do you think this animal got hurt?
- What could you do to make the animal feel better if it was sick or wounded?
- Demonstrate and talk about how to take care of a sickly animal like you would take care of your sick child.(wrap in a warm blanket, tie on a bandage, hug)
- Make a bed for your mother and baby animals. You can snuggle, too.
- Use the correct names for the mother and baby animals.
- When playing with the babies, you may be initiating the action, but babies love to be entertained.

## **OBSERVATIONS:**

- Watch how your baby responds to your gentle interactions with the toys and him/her. Babies enjoy being touched and talked to as you play with the animals.
- Playing with your child provides positive interactions.
- Young children are very egocentric and can relate to the problems of others when they pretend.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Just a simple act of caring for another can create empathy for other creatures.
- Babies are mesmerized by movement and just by watching the animals as you move them, will help the baby follow with their eyes.
- A 19 month old can learn 9 words a day, 63 words a week and 270 words a month living in an environment where stimulation is provided.

## **SUGGESTED READING:**

E Buzzeo	Stay Close to Mama
E Brown	Big Red Barn
E Cabrera	Mommy, Carry Me Please?
E Evans	Who Loves the Little Lamb
E McMullan	If You Were My Bunny
E Murphy	I Kissed the Baby
E Rylant	Puppies and Piggies
E Ziefert	Where is My Baby? (board book)
J 591.563 T	Tender Moments in the Wild: Animals and Their Babies