

The New York Public Library

At Home Storytime for Families

Let's Explore Animals

Here are some songs to sing together!

[When Cows Get Up in the Morning](#)

When cows get up in the morning, they always say hello!
When cows get up in the morning, they always say hello!
And what do they say?

Moooooooo Moooooooo Moooooooo
And that is what they say.

Other verses: Ducks "Quack", Chickens "Cluck", etc.

Use any animal you like! Extend this song with movements for each animal or by using stuffed animals, figurines, puppets, or other animal toys you have at home.

[There was a Crocodile](#)

There was a crocodile (chomping motion with arms)
An orangutan (monkey action)
A flying eagle (flap arms)
And a silvery fish (clap hands together and swim like a fish)
A bunny (make rabbit ears)
A beaver (make beaver teeth)
A crazy elephant! (make elephant trunk)
Da na na na na, da na na na na! (swinging dancing action)

Virtual Read Aloud of Favorite Books

[Moo, Baa, La La La!](#)

By Sandra Boynton

Some questions to ask during or after the story:

Why do you think the pigs are singing?

When do you like to sing?

What's your favorite thing to say?

[What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?](#)

By Steve Jenkins and Robin Page

Some questions to ask during or after the story:

What do you do with your (nose)?

Insert the body part talked about on each page.

Pause on an illustration from the story. What is this animal doing?

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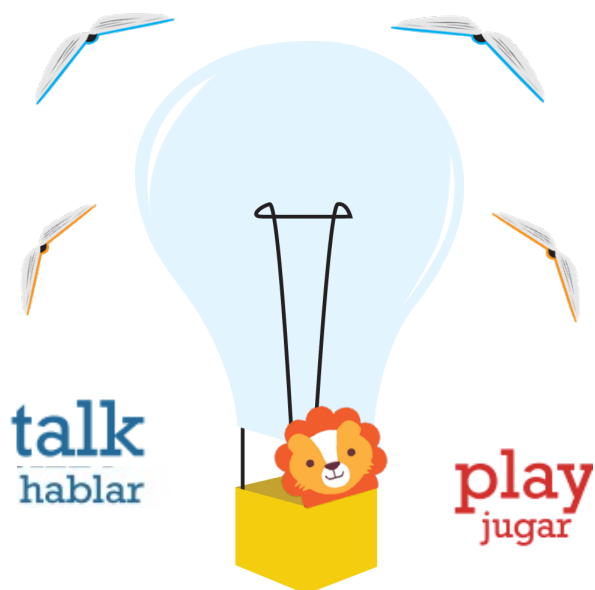
Here are some activities the whole family can do together!

Who's in the Barnyard Playing Peek-a-boo?

Play this fun rhyming activity together! Use any animal toys you have at home, or act out each animal with movement and sounds. Clap or stomp out the syllables as you chant the rhyme.

An oink, a moo, a cock-a-doodle doo!
Who's in the barnyard playing peek-a-boo?
Oink! Oink! (reveal the pig/tickle)
It's a pig! Oink! Oink!

Repeat rhyme with any animal!



Drawing Game: Animal Jumble

Give everyone a blank piece of paper and any drawing tools you have on hand. Have everyone draw ONE body part of any animal, real or make-believe, on their paper. Make sure you draw it really big!

Keep everyone's drawing a secret while you work. At the end, put all of the drawings together to reveal a silly jumble creature!

Ask your child what they would name the creature. What noise does it make? Where does it live? What does it eat? How does it move? Create a story featuring your new creation!

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