Children love to learn about and explore the world around them. Information or nonfiction books are one way they can do this. They are a good source of new vocabulary words for your child to learn.

### Language Milestones—Birth to 3 years old

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-6 months</td>
<td>Back and forth noises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-12 months</td>
<td>Babbling, tries to repeat sounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-15 months</td>
<td>Imitating, uses 1-2 words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-18 months</td>
<td>First words, meaningful gestures, uses 4-6 words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24 months</td>
<td>Putting words together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-36 months</td>
<td>Makes 3 word sentences, uses 250-900 words</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Making animals sounds is a great way to help children identify many of the sounds needed for language learning. This book has all of the farm favorites like cows, pigs and chickens...but do you know what a sea lion or dove sounds like? Visit your library to borrow other books in the series, or other information books.

### Other information books...

- **Brush, Brush, Brush**, by Alicia Padron
- **Hands Are Not For Hitting**, by Martine Agassi
- **Look and Learn: Same and Different?** by National Geographic
- **Roadwork**, by Sally Sutton
- **Tails**, by Matthew Van Fleet
- **This Is Me**, by Richard Scarry
Funding for this project is made possible by the Idaho Commission for Libraries’ Read to Me program, and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under a provision of the Library Services and Technology Act. Printed 2017

**Talk**

When reading a book with animals, go back and ask your child to point to animals on a page. “Where’s the cow? (Help your child point with her finger or hand.) There it is! What does a cow say? That’s right, moo!” Learning the sounds that animals make is a first step to being able to hear the small sounds in words, which is a skill needed when learning to read in a few years.

**Write**

Children need to use and strengthen the muscles in their hands to be able to draw and write well. A fun way to strengthen muscles is to fill a small tub or pan with water and sponges. Show your child how to squeeze the sponge out and fill it up with water again. If you do not have a good place at home to get messy, just use bath time for sponge play.

**Play**

**Fingerplay: Eight Baby Pigs**

*(Use your fingers to represent the pigs)*

Two little pigs lived in a pen. *(hold up thumbs)*

Each had four babies and that made ten. *(wiggle fingers on both hands)*

These four babies were black and white, *(wiggle fingers on one hand)*

These four babies were black as night. *(wiggle fingers on other hand)*

All eight babies loved to play, and *(wiggle all fingers)*

They rolled and they rolled in the mud all day! *(roll hands)*

**Sing**

**Old MacDonald Had a Farm**

Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O,
And on his farm he had a cow, E-I-E-I-O.

With a moo moo here,
And a moo moo there,
Here a moo, there a moo,
Everywhere a moo, moo.

Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O.

*Repeat with other farm animals: pig, horse, sheep, duck, chick*

Hear this song at [www.thelearninggroove.com/old-macdonald](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/old-macdonald)

**At your library...**

Don’t have access to a computer? Many libraries do not require a library card in order to use the computers. Some even offer free computer classes.