Down on the Farm

Not all children can experience life on a farm, but they can learn about it by having books read to them. Enjoy a moo, moo here, and a quack, quack there with books about farm life.

When You’re Reading With Your Child…

From birth to 3 months, your baby:
• Prefers books with bright colors and designs.
• Looks at pictures but might not want to touch the book.

At 4 to 6 months, your baby:
• Explores books by putting them in her mouth.
• Investigates books by patting, grabbing and pulling pages.

At 6 to 12 months, your baby:
• Babbles at some of the pictures.
• Can turn the pages with your help.
• Plays with books like toys.

At 12 to 18 months, your child:
• Can hold or carry books without your help.
• Turns pages and looks at books by herself.

At 18 to 24 months, your child:
• May say some of the words and phrases in familiar books.
• Pretends to read.
• Wants to hear a favorite story over and over.
• May like to carry favorite books around.

from Brooklyn Reads to Babies: First Five Years

Featured Book

Big Red Barn, by Margaret Wise Brown

Who lives in the big red barn? Your child will be delighted as farm animals are introduced by the sound they make, or the way they look. This book is full of great vocabulary words and rhyming text. Experience a day on the farm with the animals from the big red barn.

This book is also available in Spanish.

More books about farms...

• Chicken, Chicken Duck, by Nadia Krilanovich
• Barnyard Banter, by Denise Fleming
• Peek-a-Moo, by Marie Torres Cimarusti
• Mr. Brown Can Moo! Can You? by Dr. Seuss
• Who Said Moo? by Harriet Ziefert
• This Little Chick, by John Lawrence
• Farm Yard Rhymes, by Clare Beaton
• Have You Seen My Duckling? By Nancy Tafuri
More fun with Big Red Barn...

Music and movement... Put some rhythm into the nursery rhymes that you sing! Bounce, clap, tap, stomp, drum, jump, or snap (example -- “Roo-ster,” “sheep”). Giving each part of the word a beat will help your young child learn to break words into syllables.

Tech tip... If you have access to a computer you can find websites with nursery rhymes, as well as tunes and activities to go along with them. Here are a few of our favorites:

- www.youtube.com/user/Birth2Six
- http://ele.fredrogerscenter.org/activity
- www.youtube.com/view_play_list? p=12BC9BD880A78090 (King County Library)

Around town... As you drive around town or in the community, point out farm animals as you see them. As your child gets older and recognizes animals by their names, teach them the sound that the animal makes. Making animal noises is a fun way to imitate sounds.

Nursery Rhyme

Little Bo Peep

Little Bo Peep
Has lost her sheep,
And can’t tell where
To find them.

Leave them alone,
And they’ll come home,
Wagging their tails
Behind them.

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.

What your library can do for you...
Children enjoy watching videos about farm animals. Your local library has videos you can check out for free.

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