

## Did you know ...



It is never too early to introduce babies to print. Board books have pages that are heavy, sturdy, and laminated. They are perfect for little hands. Babies and toddlers explore their world by putting things into their mouths, including books. This is normal, which is why board books are a great choice for young children.

Books don't have to be read from front to back. You can take a "book walk" by turning the pages and pointing to pictures. Name the pictures as you look at them to help build your child's vocabulary. If your child wants to look at the same pictures over and over, give them time to do so. Children need repetition for information to be stored in their long-term memories.

Take time to look at and read books with your little one. It will create a strong tradition of reading in their lives.

## Here's how ...

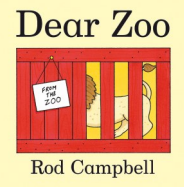


- ❖ Point out street signs as you walk or drive around town with your child. Talk about the color, shape, and words on signs so your child will be aware they have meaning.
- ❖ Point out letters, numbers, and shapes on your child's clothing. Say "Oh look, there is a circle on your shirt" and trace it with your finger.
- ❖ Let your child have opportunities to play with writing and drawing. They can write in pudding, shaving cream, sand, or dry Jell-O on a cookie sheet or any flat surface. Shaving cream should be used only with older toddlers.

## Read



### **Dear Zoo, by Rod Campbell**



What is the perfect gift from the zoo? Look under the flap to see the animals that the zoo sends - one is too big, one is too jumpy, but the final one is perfect. This classic book has been a toddler favorite for many years and is perfect for lap-sharing.

More board books by the author:

*Dinosaurs*

*Farm Animals*

*Look After Us*

*Noisy Farm*

*Oh Dear!*

## Choosing Books



### **More books to help your child begin to see print:**

*Kitten's First Full Moon*, by Kevin Henkes

*Overboard!* by Sarah Weeks

*Tall*, by Jez Alborough

*Dear Zoo*, Rod Campbell

*Shh! We Have a Plan*, by Chris Haughton

*Trucks (Baby Touch and Feel)*, by DK

*Peek-a-Who?* by Nina Laden

*Toes, Ears, and Nose*, by Karen Katz



## Talk



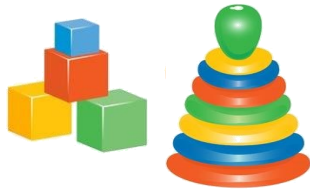
Go for a walk in your neighborhood and look for animals. Use lots of fun words to describe the animals you see. “Look, there’s a dog. That dog has a short, stumpy tail.” “I see a squirrel. The squirrel has sharp, beady eyes, and it chirps at us when we get close.”

## Ready to Write



**Stacking:** For young children, picking items up and putting them in place helps them learn the important skill of grasp-and-release, as well as how to control and position their fingers. Stacking/nesting also helps with depth perception, hand-eye coordination, and understanding where their body is in space.

Help your child stack blocks, bowls, books, boxes, food containers, plastic cups, sponges...



## Play



### The Zoo

*This is a good poem to use with body movements and to have discussions about describing words.*

At the zoo, we saw a bear.  
He had long, dark fuzzy hair.  
*(pretend to walk, etc., like a bear)*

We saw a lion in a cage.  
He was in an awful rage.  
*(pretend to be a angry lion)*

We saw the big, long-necked giraffe,  
and the silly monkeys made us laugh.  
*(everybody laugh)*

But my favorite animal at the zoo  
is the \_\_\_\_\_, *(choose an animal)*  
how about you?



## Sing



### We're Going to the Zoo

*(to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell")*

We're going to the zoo,  
We're going to the zoo!  
Hi, ho, it's off we go,  
We're going to the zoo!

We'll see some monkeys there,  
We'll see some monkeys there.  
Swinging, climbing in the trees,  
We'll see some monkeys there.

We'll see some tigers there,  
We'll see some tigers there  
Roaring, pouncing, playing about,  
We'll see some tigers there.

We'll see some penguins there,  
We'll see some penguins there.  
Waddling, diving, swimming around,  
We'll see some penguins there.

Hear tune at: <https://bussongs.com/songs/the-farmer-in-the-dell>

## At your library ...



Libraries offer fun programs for the whole family! Check your local library's website to see what programs and events are happening this spring, such as El día de los niños (Children's Day), Earth Day, or summer reading kickoff events.