

## Did you know...



Children are very curious about the world around them. They want to know about the weather, how things work, facts about animals, etc. Nonfiction, or information, books help children learn about the things that interest them.

Nonfiction books for kindergarteners should have a lot of photos or real-life drawings to help children see what they are reading about. Look for books with “bite-size” pieces of information. If there are a lot of words on each page, you don't have to read every one. Read the main points on each page and then ask questions to see what your child is interested in.

Don't shy away from some of the higher-level words that are often in nonfiction books. Your child needs to hear lots of different words in order to learn to read later on.

## Here's how...

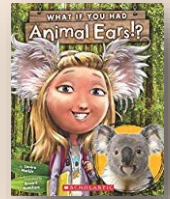


- ✦ Make time for your child to be out in the natural world. Take walks through the woods, splash in a creek, or go to a park. Children this age love to explore, so get outside and enjoy some time in nature, and see what excites them.
- ✦ Go to your local library and check out books about the things your child is interested in. Whether it is dinosaurs or bugs or bunnies, libraries can provide books that are just right for your child.
- ✦ Ask your child questions about a book by having them look at the pictures. Pictures provide a lot of clues about the information in the book.
- ✦ Magazines are also nonfiction. Many libraries have subscriptions to children's magazines such as *Ranger Rick* or *National Geographic Kids*.

## Read

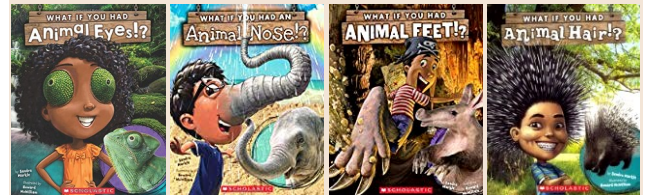


### **What if You Had Animal Ears? by Sandra Markle**



If you had meerkat ears, you could play in the mud and your ears would never get dirty! Introduce your child to some unusual animals and learn how they use their ears to help them survive.

Other books in this series:



## Choose Books



### **More great nonfiction for kindergarteners:**

*Baby Elephant Joins the Herd*, from the American Museum of Natural History

*Camp Panda*, by Catherine Thimmesh

*The Frog Book*, by Steve Jenkins

*Hey, Water!* by Antoinette Portis

*Honeybee*, by Candace Fleming

*Sea Bear: A Journey for Survival*, by Lindsay Moore

*Why Did T. rex Have Short Arms? And Other Questions about Dinosaurs*, by Melissa Stewart

*You Are Home: An Ode to the National Parks*, by Evan Turk

## Talk



*I notice, I wonder, It reminds me of ...* This is a great way to talk with your child about the world around them. Children are very curious about nature, such as an army of ants on the sidewalk. Take a few minutes to stop and watch them with your child. “I notice that the ants are forming a line from this berry someone dropped to this little hole in the ground. What do you notice?” “I wonder what kind of home they have down there. What do you wonder?” “It reminds me of when we work as a family to take the groceries inside.”

## Write



Help your child write a silly tale about an animal with the title “The Day My \_\_\_\_ Went to the \_\_\_\_.” Ask them to choose an animal and where that animal went. The sillier the better! Then ask them to start with a drawing. Ask questions as they draw, such as “Why did your (goat) want to go to the (car show)?” Let your child tell the story. Write it down, and let them copy it in their own writing if they want.

## Play



**Act Like an Animal ...** This is a fun way to get the wiggles out when the weather turns cold. Use slips of paper, popsicle sticks, or cut up cereal boxes. Write a phrase on each.



Hop like a bunny  
Waddle like a penguin  
Slither like a snake  
Stretch like a cat  
*Make up more on your own!*



Put all the slips in a bag. Take turns drawing a slip from the bag and have fun acting out what it says. Get silly!

## Sing



### Do Your Ears Hang Low?

Do your ears hang low? (*point to ears*)

Do they wobble to and fro? (*move hands side to side*)

Can you tie them in a knot? (*make tying motion*)

Can you tie them in a bow? (*pretend to tie a bow*)

Can you throw them over your shoulder like a continental soldier? (*salute*)

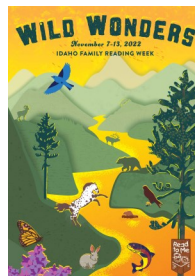
Do your ears hang low? (*point to ears*)

Hear this tune at

<https://tinyurl.com/Do-your-ears-hang-low>



## At your library...



Idaho Family Reading Week is an annual statewide celebration of reading as a family activity. Libraries across the state are planning fun events that celebrate family reading and exploring Idaho’s “Wild Wonders.”

Ask your librarian about special events and programs planned for Family Reading Week, November 7-13, 2022.