

Read, sing, talk, write, and play when engaging with your young child. Use the books and toys in this kit, along with the activities below, to support the development of early literacy skills and instill a love of reading.

Read

Read the books in this kit with your child. Take time to look at and talk about the pictures.

Make the story come alive! Don't be afraid to use voices and have fun with reading.

Ask your child questions about what is happening in the story and what they think may happen next.

Encourage your child to participate: filling in rhymes, chanting refrains, making sounds, and acting out parts of the story.

Ask your child to help you identify the animals in the stories. Make the animals' noises together.

Sing

BINGO

There was a farmer who had a dog
And Bingo was his name-o.
B-I-N-G-O
B-I-N-G-O
B-I-N-G-O
And Bingo was his name-o.

Additional verses are sung by omitting the first letter sung in the previous verse and clapping instead of saying the word.

There was a farmer who had a dog
And Bingo was his name-o.
[Clap] I-N-G-O
[Clap] I-N-G-O
[Clap] I-N-G-O
And Bingo was his name-o.

I Had a Rooster

I had a rooster by the barnyard gate,
That little rooster was my playmate,
That little rooster went cock-a-doodle-doo,
Dee doodle dee doodle dee doodle dee doo.

Repeat with other animals.

I Went to Visit the Farm

Use the animals in the Farm Discovery Box to sing the song.
I went to visit the farm one day,
I saw a cow along the way.
And what do you think I heard it say?
Moo, moo, moo

Talk

Use the toy farm animals to act out a story taking place on the farm.

Ask your child, if they were a farmer, what animals would live on their farm? What plants would they grow?

Use the toy farm animals and barn to introduce positional words. For example, have your child place the animals behind the barn, on top, beside, in front, etc.

Ask your child what their favorite farm animal is. Ask them to tell you more about it. What color is it? Is it big or little? What sound does it make? What does it eat? To learn more about the animal, check out a book from the library!

Write

Grab some blank paper and crayons. Draw your version of a farm or just enjoy scribbling.

Encourage your child to sign their name. Write out their name and talk about each letter.

Help your child to create their own farm book. Staple together some blank sheets of paper. Ask your child what animals they'd like to include and at the top of each page, write the animal's name. Then your child can illustrate the book.

Play

Pull out all of the pieces of the puzzle and encourage your child to place the pieces back where they belong.

Play "Farm Animal Charades." Children can waddle like ducks, gallop like horses, or strut like chickens. Can you guess what animal your child is acting out?

Play "What's That Sound?" Take turns making animal noises and seeing if the others can guess the animal.

This tip sheet stays with the kit. For a copy of your own, visit dtdl.org/littlethings. For more books, songs, rhymes, and activity ideas to share with your child, visit dtdl.org/storytimes.