

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



**Animals (The
Kids' Picture
Show)**

Designed by Chieri
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Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

Animals from near and far, familiar and unfamiliar cover the pages of this board book. Children will recognize some animals as pets or from visits to farms or the zoo. Others will be exciting and new. All will lend themselves to stories and conversations and observations.

Genre: Informational/Concept based (animals)

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Animals* to introduce in your classroom:

Animal names
Rainforest Under the sea
Savanna Creepy-crawlies
Forest

Each time you read the book, highlight 2 or 3 words.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or refer to the illustrations to help children understand each word's meaning.

Use the new words throughout the day, reminding children, "That's a word from our story!"

**Connecting with
HighScope
Curriculum**

COR Advantage 1.5

Science & Technology
Item DD
(Natural and physical
world)

Item BB
(Observing and
classifying)

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item Q
(Book enjoyment and
knowledge)

Reading Tips

This board book lends itself to conversations and does not need to be read fully from front to back. Let the children choose what interests them from among the illustrations. Name the illustration the child is focused on and use that as a springboard for vocabulary and more complex language. Draw connections to the children's lives outside school, reminding them of those animals that are familiar. Use fun and active language to describe the animals, talking about how they move and where they live.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. During each reading the adult can introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

It's only natural to 'move like the animals' for **Transitions** and for **Music and Movement Group Time**. Encourage the children to choose their favorite animal and moves!

Gather the different types of animals in your classroom and see how the children categorize them for a **Group Time** activity.

Find other books about pets or farm animals to read at **Story Time**.

Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Ask families for photos of their pets to display in the classroom.

Add materials to the **House Area** for pet care.

Add materials to the **Block Area** to encourage children to create their own zoo or rainforest.

Add other books about animals and animal families to the **Book Area**.

Active Engagement

Reading with infants is all about relationship, connection, and words.

There is no hurry with this book, so take your time and follow the children's lead. They may want to linger on their favorite animals.

As children are ready, use some open-ended questions to further the back and forths:

Do you have a pet at your house? How does your pet play?
That tiger looks like he might be growling. What sound does that [name animal] make?
How does that sloth hang onto the tree branch?

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact **The Family Connection:***

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
[@famconnsc](https://www.facebook.com/famconnsc)

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many children in our county will have this book at home, use it to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Animals (The Kids' Picture Show)* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

The '8-bit' illustrations in this small board book may look familiar to you if you've played arcade games! Have fun with the concept and use the illustrations to begin conversations about the many types of animals pictured. There will be some that are familiar (pets, farm animals, creepy-crawlies) and others that are brand new (Rainforest, Savannah, Under the sea). Make connections for and with your child as you linger over the illustrations. This is a book that a child may well want to look at over and over as the stories of the animals come alive.