

Down on the Farm

Primary Objectives

4. Demonstrates traveling skills
5. Demonstrates balancing skills
- 9a. Uses an expanding expressive vocabulary

Why It's Important

The sounds from and names of farm animals can be the first ones that children remember. From singing “Old MacDonald Had a Farm,” some children already know many animal sounds. Your child can learn how to pretend to be different farm animals by imitating some of your actions.

Materials

Large open floor space or outdoor area; books or magazines with pictures of farm animals; music with animal sounds (optional)

What You Do

1. Invite your child to join you in a discussion about what it would be like to visit a farm. Look at the pictures of farm animals together, and talk about what the animals look like and how they live. *Look at the cow's long tail. She uses it to swat flies away. What do you think she eats?*
2. Talk about the various animal sounds. If you have a recording of animal sounds, listen to it and talk about each animal you hear.
3. Encourage your child to make the sounds that the animals in the pictures make. Offer assistance, if needed, by singing “Old MacDonald Had a Farm” and let her fill in the sounds during the song.
4. Invite your child to think of an animal she would like to act out. Demonstrate, if necessary, by hopping like a bunny, chewing like a cow, etc. Talk about what you see her doing. *It looks like you are a happy dog because your tail is wagging and you are running around!*
5. You can continue the activity by taking turns acting out the animals and guessing each other's imitations.