

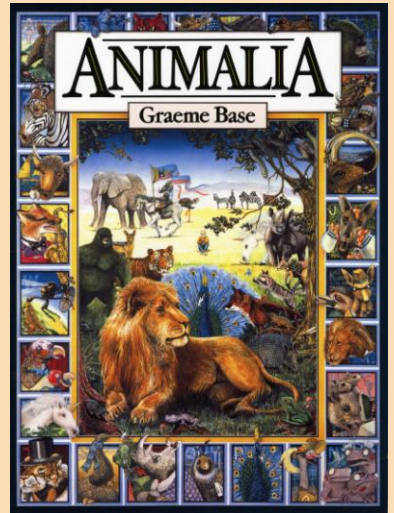
Play is the most powerful way young children learn.

- Every time you play, sing or read with young children they are learning about language.
- The following activities have been designed for early childhood professionals to use as a starting point for developing children’s early literacy skills through play.
- Please feel free to adapt them for the home and with children of different ages.
- Don’t forget to record your own ideas, activities that worked really well, relevant songs and rhymes in the Notes section opposite.
- Visit our website www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au for more fun printable activities based on this book.

Engaging with Language and Literacy

Within the pages of this book
 You may discover, if you look
 Beyond the spell of written words,
 A hidden land of beasts and birds.
 For many things are 'of a kind,'
 And those with keenest eyes will find
 A thousand things, or maybe more -
 It's up to you to keep the score . . .

- Look at the cover of the book and talk about all the things the children can see in the picture.
- There are many ways you can share this book with young children. For the very young you may wish to read the letter of the alphabet rather than the whole text.
- Many of the words in Animalia may not be in a toddler’s vocabulary, but they will enjoy hearing the same initial sound repeated over and over again. (Alliteration)
- With younger children you may choose to read only a few pages at time or focus on just one page and one letter sound.
- Graham Base’s pictures contain lots of detail. With young children think about reading the story to a small group so each child can look closely at the pictures.
- Using pictures that the children have drawn and from magazines or calendars make a poster featuring a letter or initial sound.



Animalia

Graeme Base

Notes

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- Choose a letter and create a display containing objects starting with that letter.
- After reading the story ask the children to pick their favourite animal.
Record the children's responses and make a book with simple text like "Max's favourite animal is a unicorn. Sophie's favourite animal is rhino". The children can help illustrate the story.
- Make a collection of books about animals for the children to read. Can they find some of the same animals as in Animalia.

Exploring Our World

An Excursion To The Zoo

- How many of the animals featured in Animalia can the children find at the zoo?
- Don't forget to take a camera to take photos of the children's favourite animals.
- The photos can be used to make a book.

Where Are They From?

- Use a large map of the world or a globe to show the children where some of the animals in the story live.
- Draw an outline of each country and have the children draw each animal that lives in that country. Stick the animals onto the country outlines and make your own world map.
- Can you find any animals that live in Australia?

Being Creative Through Play

Make Animal Masks

- Create animal masks from paper plates.
- Cut small paper plates in half and make eyeholes.
- Provide the children with collage materials such as feathers, faux fur, coloured paper, felt, material pipe cleaners.
- What sort animal will they be?

Choose A Letter

Create an activity by choosing a letter from the story and one of the characters/things .

A - Bring in toy abacus for the children to play with.

Useful websites and links:

www.graemebase.com

thelittlebigbookclub.com.au

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The information within this resource file is provided by The Little Big Book Club. Enquiries to admin@tbbcinc.com.au. The Vegemite Little Aussie Reader is a project developed in partnership with The Little Big Book Club and Kraft Foods. The Little Big Book Club is known as *The Advertiser* Little Big Book Club in South Australia and *The Courier-Mail* Little Big Book Club in Queensland and *The Daily Telegraph* Little Big Book Club in New South Wales.

F - Set up a fish tank in the room for the children to observe the fish.

I and J - Make ice cream and jelly.

L - Visit the local library

P - bring a variety of puppets for the children to play with.

T - Make a train out of cardboard boxes.

What's Missing?

- Collect a small selection of toys and objects starting with the same letter.
- Place all the items under a blanket and remove one. Can the children guess what is missing?

Having Fun with Music and Movement

Choose an animal from the story and an adjective. Sing a song to the tune of Skip To My Lou:

Angry Ants, a,a,a
Angry Ants, a,a,a
Angry Ants a,a,a
Skip to my Lou my darling.

Hungry Hippos h,h,h
Hungry Hippos h,h,h
Hungry Hippos h,h,h
Skip to my Lou my darling.

Sing songs some of the animals featured in the story:

- *Five Little Butterflies*
- *One Grey Elephant Balancing*
- *Five Little Speckled Frogs*
- *Gorillas In The Zoo*
- *Leo The Lion*
- *The Unicorn*

Rhymes and Songs

Five Little Butterflies
Five little butterflies by the door.
One flew away, then there were four.
Four little butterflies by the tree.
One flew away, then there were three.
Three little butterflies up in the blue.
One flew away, then there were two.

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Two little butterflies out in the sun.
One flew away, then there was one.
One little butterfly now all alone.

She was so lonely, she flew home.

Elephants Balancing

One grey elephant balancing
Step by step on a piece of string
Thought it was such a wonderful stunt
That he called for another elephant
Two grey elephants balancing
Step by step on a piece of string
Thought it was such a wonderful stunt
That they called for another elephant
Three grey elephants balancing
Step by step on a piece of string
Thought it was such a wonderful stunt
That they called for another elephant
Four grey elephants balancing
Step by step on a piece of string
Thought it was such a wonderful stunt
That they called for another elephant
Five grey elephants balancing
Step by step on a piece of string
All of a sudden the piece of string broke
And down came all the elephant folk

The Unicorn

A long time ago when the earth was green,
There were more kinds of animals than you'd ever seen.
They ran around free while the ark was being born,
And the loveliest of them all was the Unicorn.
There were green alligators and long-necked geese,
Some humpty-backed camels and some chimpanzees,
Some cats and rats and elephants,
But sure as you're born,
The loveliest of them all was the Unicorn!

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