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.

Engaging with Language and Literacy

When reading the story:
- Introduce the story, “Let’s Go Visiting”
- Have a collection of animals or soft toys from the story for the children to hold.
- Count the animals with the children or hold up fingers to correspond with the number.
- Talk about the colour of each baby animal eg “Look at the yellow puppies they are yellow like the sun.”

Baby Animal Names:
- Talk with children about the baby animal names
  - 1 brown foal – a foal is a baby horse
  - 2 red calves – a calf is a baby cow
  - 3 black kittens - a kitten is a baby cat
- Do the children know the names of any other baby animals?
- Focus on the sounds the animals make eg. “What do dogs say? Woof Woof” “Can you say Woof Woof”

After reading the story:
- Make finger puppets or puppets on pop sticks to retell the story. Younger children will enjoy the opportunity to hold the puppets during the story.
- Revisit the numbers and colours in the story, “Look there are two red calves, I can see yellow puppies”

Discovering Sensory Play

Water Play
- Use coloured water in the water play activities.


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.
Finger Painting
- Toddlers enjoy the sensation of finger painting.
- Choose a colour from the story and make the matching finger paint
- What happens when you mix two colours together?
- Ask the children what is their favourite colour?
- Use the children’s pictures to create a colour display.

Animal Collage
- Draw an outline of the baby animals from the story.
- Provide the children with collage materials in the same colour as the animal.
- You could use cotton wool, ribbon, wrapping paper, faux fur and scraps of material.

Farm Fun
- Make some coloured play dough with the children.
- Include some plastic farm animals from the story with the play dough.
- Talk and count with the children while playing with the play dough. “How many calves can you see? Lets count them together”.

Exploring Our World

Colour Hunt:
- Go for a walk around the room and outside – and find some of the colours from the story, for example, “Look I can see some red flowers just like the red calves”.
- If you have access to a digital camera try taking photos of the different coloured things and making a book for the children to read.
- Include simple some text like Here are three red flowers, Here are four green leaves.

Make a colour mobile:
- Choose a colour from the story
- Hang pictures of things all the same colour on a coathanger.
- You could use:
  - Pictures from magazines
  - Natural objects from the garden.
· Photographs
· As with all homemade toys, supervision of young children is essential when making and playing with toys.

Enjoying Music and Movement

Sing Old McDonald had a farm and include animals from the story.

As a fun movement activity you can move like the animals in the story.

Singing simple number rhymes and finger plays with the toddlers. Encourage toddlers to clap their hands on the last word of each sentence to emphasise the rhyme.

· Round and Round The Garden
· Twinkle Twinkle
· Baa Baa Black Sheep
· Mary Had A Little Lamb
· Five Little Ducks

When young children hear rhymes again and again they will begin to remember them and join in with the actions and words.

Rhymes and songs:

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are
Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky
Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are!

Old MacDonald
Old MacDonald had a farm, eee-yi-eee-yi-oh
And on this farm he had a calf, eee-yi-eee-yi-oh
With a moo moo here and a moo moo there
Here a moo, there a moo, everywhere a moo moo
Old Mac Donald had a farm, eee-yi-eee-yi-oh

Old MacDonald had a farm, eee-yi-eee-yi-oh
And on this farm he had a piglet, eee-yi-eee-yi-oh
With an oink, oink here and an oink, oink there
More Books That Rhyme

Where Is The Green Sheep by Mem Fox
Let’s Go Walking by Sue Machin
Brown Bear Brown Bear What Do You See by Bill Martin Jr

Useful websites:
For printable activities:
www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au

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