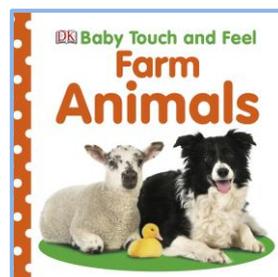


Baby Touch and Feel | Farm Animals

By DK Books



This chunky board book is the perfect way to introduce your baby to farm animals. Full of gorgeous bright photos of farm animals and packed with different textures and colours, babies will delight in touching and feeling the soft cow, the fluffy chicken and the sticky mud. The simple bold text is perfect for babies meeting farm animals for the first time. With lots of opportunity for little fingers to explore and make animal noises Farm Animals will have you mooing, baaing and quacking until the sleepy end.

Key Message for Parents | Children learn through being engaged and doing.

Children are active learners. They learn about the world by exploring and playing. Many books are designed to encourage the child to interact and engage with them. As new sights, textures and sounds are absorbed the connections in a baby's brain that make learning possible multiply and become stronger.

Some ideas to share with parents about engaging with their baby include;

- Read books that encourage the reader to interact like lift the flap and ones with different textures.
- Play with your baby. They love being with you and by playing simple games you are strengthening the bond between yourself and your baby.

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 5: Children Are Effective Communicators

Babies learn to communicate through watching and listening and they need many experiences to build their communication skills.

- By sharing reading stories, talking and singing with babies you are providing the perfect environment for language development to blossom.
- Babies love to listen to your voice so talk with them as much as possible. Talk about what you are doing, whether it's changing them, serving or preparing food, or playing a game.
- Respond to babies attempts at communicating. Pause and listen to the sounds and gestures they make. These sounds are the precursors to words. The more you communicate babies the better they will be at communicating.

Find booklists, tip sheets, nursery rhymes and activity and learning time sheets @

thelittlebigbookclub.com.au     



Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their babies. Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

Welcome song - Come Along

Come along and sing with me, sing with me

Come along and sing with me, It's time for story time

Repeat and replace 'sing' with bounce, rock, clap etc.

Come along and bounce with me, bounce with me, bounce with me

Come along and bounce with me, it's time for story time

Songs

Old McDonald had a farm

Old McDonald had a farm E I E I O

And on that farm, he had a cow, E I E I O

With a moo moo here and a moo moo there

Here a moo, there a moo, everywhere a moo moo

Old McDonald had a farm, E I E I O



Action Tip:

You can clap the beat on your knees

With small babies, lay them on the floor and touch different body parts when you sing with a *moo moo here* and a *moo moo there* etc.

Repeat with a sheep (baa baa), duck (quack quack), chicken (cluck Cluck)

Action Tip:

Enjoy this rhyme by gently wiggling your baby's fingers or toes.

Start with the thumb or big toe. Touch each finger/toe as you say the rhyme

On the last line tickle up your baby's arm or leg as the piggy goes home. Repeat with opposite hand or foot.

This little piggy

This little piggy went to market

This little piggy stayed home

This little piggy had roast beef

And this little piggy had none

And this little piggy went wee wee wee all the way home



Before Reading

Set up your reading space to make it comfortable for families.

Introduce the topic of the story and explain there will be lots of opportunity for the babies to touch and feel during the story. As well as reading the story explain that we will be making animals noises so encourage the adults to join in.

This book has lots of interactive elements in the story. If possible have multiple copies of this and provide each family with a copy of the book.

During Reading

Even though this is a book with simple text, take your time in sharing this book. Spend time exploring all the different textures on each page. Talk about how they feel- soft, fluffy, sticky or woolly. Encourage parents and carers to help their baby to touch and feel the different textures.

Read the words and then make the animals noises.

Talk about the baby names of each animal. For example, Cow sitting among the flowers. Look there is a baby cow, it is called a calf. A cow says Moo. Let's pat the cow.

After Reading

Talk to parents about how animal sounds are fun first sounds for babies. Sounds come before words. Encourage them to respond to any little sounds their baby makes, then pause – this will signal to baby that it their turn to talk again. This teaches the baby about the pattern of conversation.

You might like to read the story a second time to explore other elements in the book like the colours on each page or the squishy cover versus the hard pages.

Activity time

Fun with farm animals

What you need:

- Farm animal toys – cow, pig, sheep, chicken
- Basket



What to do:

- Place some farm animals into a basket in front of baby. If your baby is able to pick things up demonstrate picking up an animal and saying the name and make the sound. For example, this is a cow. A cow says **moo**.
- Place the animal back into the basket and invite your baby to pick up an animal.
- Allow time for baby to respond. Once they select an animal talk to them about what they have chosen. Eg: you have picked up the pig! What does a pig say? **Oink oink**.
- If your baby isn't able to pick things up yet, just move on to picking up another animal from the basket and name it and make the animal sound.



Extension idea:

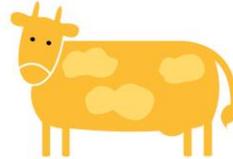
Once you have selected an animal, named it and make the sounds, try gently touching the animal onto different body parts on your baby. For example: the cow is on your leg; the cow is on your head. Say this rhyme to introduce some movement;

Here comes the cow

Up your arm

Here goes the cow

Down your leg



Repeat with other animals.

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Farm Chase** by Rod Campbell
- **Moo** by Alison Lester
- **Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?** by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (*Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*) **or** your preferred choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action)

Say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye

To all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!