

"Animals Everywhere" is January's curriculum theme. The theme includes learning about pets, arctic regions animals, and animals we can see at the farm and zoo. There will be lots of opportunities for communication in the classrooms and throughout the building.

Here are a few suggested home activities to encourage language, literacy and concepts:

January vocabulary:

animals	across	big	eat	stomped
pets	under	middle		greedy
bridge		small		
goats				

Emphasize these words at home as you and your child play and look at pictures in books and magazines together.

Activities:

1. Places to visit on a cold weekend:
 - A. Patuxent Wildlife Refuge: The indoor building has several enclosed dioramas that include wolves, deer and birds. There is also a replica of a polar bear.
 - B. Watkins Park Nature Center has snakes, frogs, turtles and insects to watch.
 - C. Clearwater Nature Center in Clinton also has many animals to watch.
 - D. National Aquarium in Washington DC, located in the Department of Commerce building. This is smaller than the Baltimore aquarium and has fewer visitors so it is perfect for young children to see a variety of sea life animals. There is an area for touching and handling. There is even an alligator!
 - E. Your neighborhood public library. Look at books about animals together.
2. Have fun learning about prepositions: make a maze using blankets, pillows, furniture, boxes, etc; then have your child pretend to be an animal and follow the maze in, on, under, over and across. Join in on the fun! Make animal sounds while you complete the maze with your child.
3. Use playdoh to make snowpeople. Be sure to make big, middle/medium size and small balls.
4. Measuring cups and measuring spoons are wonderful tools for learning about size. Use them while giving your child a bath and when you child is helping you cook.
5. Look at books and magazines together. Talk about the animal pictures you see. Talk about the size, colors and of course the sounds the animal makes.
6. Draw an animal. The drawing doesn't have to look like an animal. Label it and talk about the animal. Remember a scribble is a child's art so it is perfect. Send in the art work and we will display it.

January Book Suggestions

Clifford the Big Red Dog, Norman Birdwell

Three Little Kittens, Paul Galdone

Three Billy Goats Gruff, Paul Galdone or other versions of this tale

Does a Kangaroo have a Mother, Too?, Eric Carle

Spot books, Eric Hill

The Mitten, Jan Brett

Is Your Mama a Llama?

You can find books and CDs at your local public library. The librarians can suggest additional titles that you and your child may enjoy.