

Animals

Talking activities with toys



Talk about what you and your child are doing

As a parent or caregiver, you play an important role in your child's language learning. Turn playtime with toys into back-and-forth interactions and help your child build their language. When playing together, talk about what you and your child are doing. Try these activities in your language.



With your baby

- Name the animals, like cow, dog, lion, and so on. Make the sounds that go with the animals, like moo and woof.
- Put an animal on the roof of a toy barn or on a table. Let your baby knock it off. Say, "Uh-oh! The pig fell down." Do it again and wait. Use a different animal.



With your toddler

- Play pretend with the animals. Talk about what they are doing. Say, "The cow is eating" or "The frog is hopping." When your child says a word, add a new idea. If they say, "Cat," you say, "A small cat" or "The cat is fast."
- Use other toys as you play with the toy animals. Put the animals on a bus and drive them to school.



With your preschooler

- Let your child be the leader. They can tell you what animal to play with. Talk about what your animal is doing. Say, "The zebra is sleeping. Now it's time to wake up. Get up zebra."
- Make up a story with the animals. Pretend an animal is sick and must go to the veterinarian. Or pretend the animals live in a zoo.



Where to get help

Speech-language pathologists can help. Learn more at ahs.ca/pedrehab.

These ideas can also be used with animal stuffies or toy dinosaurs. Another way to learn about animals is to encourage your child to help care for family pets. They can brush the dog's fur or fill the cat's food bowl.



For more information scan this QR code or visit: ahs.ca/talkbox



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