

Fun with Toddlers: Zoo or Jungle Theme

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Songs to Sing: We're Going to the Zoo by Raffi – search for it on YouTube!

To the tune of Wheels on the Bus: "The lions at the zoo say roar roar roar, roar roar roar, roar roar roar. The lions at the zoo say roar roar roar all day long." Repeat with any animal sound you want.

Building Projects:

Zoo: Take out blocks or Duplos and toy animals. Build a zoo with your child.

Outdoor Play: Build a habitat for plastic animals with rocks, sticks, and plants.



Game: Make cards or dice that have pictures of animals, or put plastic animals in a bag. The child rolls (or draws a toy from the bag). Then you both pretend to be that animal – moving like it or making the sound.

Habitat Sorting: Put out plastic animals or pictures of animals, plus pictures of habitats. Talk with them about which animals live on farms, which live in jungles, in the ocean, or in the desert.

Art Activities

Bead Snakes: Thread beads on pipe cleaners. Fold ends over. Optional: Add googly eyes.

Hoof and Paw Prints: If you have toy animals, check out their feet. Find ones who'll make different shapes of tracks. Set out paint, paper, and animals, and make tracks. (You could also make tracks in play-dough.)

Paper Plate Snake: Decorate a plate, then cut it into a spiral snake. Add eyes.



Books to Read

Dear Zoo by Campbell. Fabulous lift the flap. "I wrote to the zoo to send me a pet..." See what they send!

Good Night Gorilla by Rathmann. A charming wordless book about a gorilla escaping its cage.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See or Polar Bear, Polar Bear by Carle. Great repeating rhyme and rhythm. Children love to predict what will be on the next page.

More ideas (and source citations) at: www.pinterest.com/bcparented