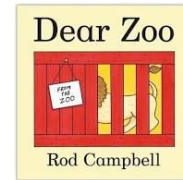


### Story and activity ideas: Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell

Read the story together or click on the link to read along with Jayne:



[https://www.maytree-nursery.lambeth.sch.uk/uploads/b/43868287-687176510811840437/32e7426a-4ff2-444f-81fa-41f530ac76fc\\_565.mp4](https://www.maytree-nursery.lambeth.sch.uk/uploads/b/43868287-687176510811840437/32e7426a-4ff2-444f-81fa-41f530ac76fc_565.mp4)

Some tips for sharing the story together:

- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Read the title of the book together and read the label 'From the zoo'. Talk about what they think the book is going to be about.
- Before they open the flap, ask them if they can guess what animal is behind.
- As each animal is revealed, have fun making the animal noises!
- Talk about the story - what animal was too heavy? What animal was too tall? Was it the giraffe or the snake?

Try these activity ideas:

- Use wildlife animal toys and an empty box to retell the story. Your child will have great fun putting each animal back into the box, saying, 'I sent him back!'



- small world play with the wildlife animals - have a selection of wildlife animals for imaginative play.
- Counting the animals and sorting them.
- Try to find out information about each animal. Where does it live? What does it eat?
- Make your own animal pop-up book with the animals hidden under flaps. Encourage your child to draw their own pictures or use downloaded pictures:

[https://www.teachingideas.co.uk/sites/default/files/zooanimalswordmat\\_1.pdf](https://www.teachingideas.co.uk/sites/default/files/zooanimalswordmat_1.pdf)

- Mark-making and drawing on plain paper: your child can draw and talk about their favourite animal in the story.
- Animal painting – offer some big paper and paint for your child to paint their own animals.
- Paper-plate animal masks



- Get some paper and envelopes, write letters to the zoo or to a friend. Put on a stamp and post your letters in the letterbox!
- Play a memory game! Have a selection of four or five animals laid out on the floor. Ask your child to close their eyes while you take away one of the animals. Can your child guess which animal is missing?
- Sing some animal songs like, 'Down in the jungle' or make up your own version of 'Old Macdonald had a... zoo'!
- Get moving with this fun movement video. It has playdough hand-gym too!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9D5lfqZF3o>

- Here's a link to a singing version of 'Dear Zoo.' :  
<https://youtu.be/Kzl9IyeMWto>

- Try some animal paw printing!



**Here are some website links with more activity ideas:**

<https://www.craftsonsea.co.uk/dear-zoo-activities-and-crafts/>

<https://www.youclevermonkey.com/2014/03/dear-zoo.html>

**Have lots of fun together with Dear Zoo!**

Share your fun times with us by sending 'photos to your child's key worker, via EExAT!

