



HIGH 5 COMMUNICATION RESOURCES

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SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY • BABY SIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION • FEEDING THERAPY

WEEK 4: WHY TEACH ANIMAL SOUNDS?

First Speech Sounds.

Children usually develop the following speech sounds first and as they get older, they learn to produce new and harder speech sounds along the way.

- **Early speech sounds:** Vowels + p, b, m, n, t, d, w, h

First Syllable Shapes.

Syllable shapes refer to the way that we put consonants and vowels together to make words.

Note: we write C for consonant and V for vowel. So a "CV" word would be one consonant + one vowel, like the word "me," "do" or "go". A CVC word would be "mom," "cat" or "dog."

- **Early Syllable Shapes:** V-V ("uh-oh"), CV ("me"), VC ("up"), CVC with the *same* consonant ("mom") and CVCV with the *same* consonant ("daddy").

So - Combine This All Together and You Get: Animal Sounds!

Moo. Baa. Neigh. Meow.

Animal sounds incorporate children's first speech sounds with their first syllable shapes. An easy, fun, and powerful way to help a young child start talking.

Once you realize the power of animal sounds, it's easy to integrate them into your day to help your little one start mooing, too. You can simply make the sound when you see an animal. Please say the word, too, of course ("Cow! Moo!") The sillier you make the sound, the better!). Do this while looking at books, coloring pictures, watching TV, or just playing around.

Your child is more likely to follow both your actions and your words when you put them both together. So if you use the sign for each animal and do the sign while you say the sound, you are giving your child both an action to imitate and a sound that goes with it. If you have little animal toy figures around the house, you can pair your actions with words by making the animal walk while saying the animal sound repeatedly.

What's more, animal sounds are readily present in a number of repetitive books and songs. Old McDonald, of course, is an oldy but a goody.

Although animals sounds might not seem like actual words, they can help children learn to associate a simple sound with an actual object or picture. Because the sounds are easy to say, children are more likely to imitate them. This success, in turn, helps them make the jump to 'real' words. So don't hold back: moo, baa, and neigh away!



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ANIMAL BOOKS

- Brown Bear by Eric Carle
- Grover's Adventure Under the Sea by Sesame Street (great for sea creatures)
- Peekaboo Farm by Lamaze (great for animal vocab or farm-specific animals)
- Where's Max? by Lawrie Taylor (great for sea-specific vocabulary)
- Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What Do You See by Eric Carle
- Commotion in the Ocean by Giles Andreae (another sea-specific book)
- Look Who's Popping Up On the Farm by Nick Ellsworth (another farm-related book)
- Forest Animals by Bendon Publishing International (I use this for a forest-specific animals)
- Jumble In the Jungle by Giles Andreae (great for jungle-specific animals)
- Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother, Too? by Eric Carle (also great for teaching the sign for Mom)
- Look and Listen by Lorna Read (a good farm-specific book)
- Hopper by Marcus Pfister (uses signs for mom and rabbit repeatedly)
- Any book by Sandra Boynton is great for animal lessons; specifically, I use:
 - Doggies: A Counting and Barking Book
 - But Not the Hippopotamus
 - Moo, Baa, La La La!
 - Are You A Cow?
 - Barnyard Dance
- Curly the Pig (from Usborne--fun for a farm-specific lesson)
- Open the Barn Door...a chunky flap book by Christopher Santoro (a farm-specific book)
- Happy Baby Animals by Priddy Books
- Baby Animals by Dawn Sirett
- Good Dog, Carl by Alexandra Day (you repeatedly sign mom, baby, and dog)
- I Spy Little Animals by Jean Marzollo
- Safari Splash by Fisher-Price (jungle animals)