



Activity ideas to support Learning at Home Early Years Service, Children's Services Buckinghamshire Council

Dear Zoo....

'I wrote to the zoo to send me a pet . . .'
what animals can you find in the story?
Young children will love lifting the flaps to
discover the animals the zoo has sent - a
monkey, a lion and even an elephant! But
will they ever manage to send the perfect
pet? [Listen to the story](#) or source from your
[local library](#).



Talking Tuesday Communication and Language Week

Pets

You may already have a pet you
could talk about or if you could ask
for a pet what would you have?
Have a go at creating a picture of
your pet. **I wonder** if it has arms,
legs, eyes, ears? Talk about what
these would look like: **long, fluffy,
rough, stick up, floppy, friendly,
noisy**. Talk together about how
you would look after this pet, what
you would feed it and where could
it sleep?



Five little monkeys jumping on the bed

FIVE little monkeys jumping on the bed,
One fell off and bumped his head.
Mother called the doctor and the doctor said:
'No more jumping on the bed!'

FOUR little monkeys jumping on the bed,
One fell off and bumped his head.
Mother called the doctor and the doctor said:
'No more jumping on the bed!'

THREE little monkeys jumping on the bed,
One fell off and bumped his head.
Mother called the doctor and the doctor said:
'No more jumping on the bed!'

TWO little monkeys jumping on the bed,
One fell off and bumped his head.
Mother called the doctor and the doctor said:
'No more jumping on the bed!'

ONE little monkey jumping on the bed,
He fell off and bumped his head.
Mother called the doctor and the doctor said:
'No more jumping on the bed!'



Use your
fingers to
count
together



Make a Surprise Box

Collect a cardboard box, it could be a cereal
box or any other you may have -maybe write
'Surprise' on the outside.

Put something inside and give it to your
child - it could be a small toy, a teddy, a
spoon, a coin, a piece of fruit or something
else small. Shake the box together and talk
about the sounds? Is it **soft or loud**? Let
your child feel inside, can they guess what's
inside? For older children, perhaps they
could feel inside the box and make a guess,
without looking, from several objects.
Encourage them to describe it.



Conversations about animals

Look at other books, magazines or real animals. Listen to what
your child says about them and gradually add some new words
at their level of understanding.

Discuss what they look like with a range of describing words
e.g. , **enormous, tiny, tall, gigantic**. Where do these animals
live: **jungle, sea/ocean, under stones, tropical/hot countries**?
What might they eat.....plants, other animals?

Communication and Language

30-50 months

Listening and Attention

You might notice that your child can:

Enjoy listening to stories you tell them & talks about them later. Joins in with their favourite bits, like “Who’s been sleeping in my bed?” when we are reading Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

Joins in with their favourite rhymes and stories and guesses what will happen next.

Stop what they are doing and listen when they hear you talk to them, or they hear the doorbell ring.

Understanding:

Understand questions like “What do we need to cut the bread?” I know it’s a knife.

Understand simple ideas like “Put teddy under the blanket” or “Put the car on top of the garage”. Your child knows what you mean, and I can do it by themselves.

Help you when you ask me to put something away or get something.

Understand questions like “How can we mop up the juice?”

Speech:

Use longer sentences with words like “because” and “and” like “I cried, I did, because I banged my foot”

Tell you about something that happened yesterday, like “remember when we went to the park and came home”.

Ask lots of questions and answer your questions too.

Talk about what we are doing now, and what might happen later or tomorrow.

Sometimes talk like a grown up to make myself clear, like “I really, really need the toilet now”.

Can use lots of words.

Information for Parents & Carers



Find out More

[The Communication Trust Top Tips](#)

[Literacy Trust Multilingual](#)

[BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

[Small Talk - ideas for Parents](#)

[Hungry Little Minds Campaign](#)



Top Tips

Children don’t learn to talk by accident. It’s a complicated skill. These tips will help you:

- Say their name first to get their attention
- Help your child to learn new words by using all their senses to teach new words
- Build in lots of repetition ‘Dog, yes a dog, woof woof dog’
- Build on what you child knows and says. Taking turns with babies, adding words for toddlers and phrases for older children. Car, yes it’s a car, a blue car, a big blue car’
- Talk about what your child is interested in
- If your child makes a mistake repeat the words and sentences clearly in the right way
- Use comments and prompts instead of asking too many questions. ‘We’re going to walk to see Granny, up the road and through the park’
- Play around with words and make up silly ones ‘Lucky Lucy loves lunch’
- Give your child time to think about what you have said
- Chatting is important, the more you chat to your child the more they get time to practice.

Find out more about your Child’s development

[What to expect when – Developmental Guide for Parents](#)

If you have any concerns about your child’s development the first thing you can do is chat to your Child’s Key Person at their Setting.