

Book of the week:

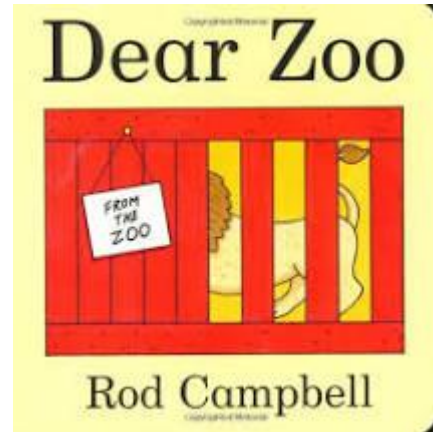
DEAR ZOO

By Rod Campbell

Youtube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rudDGRQ9QGA>

This week's story is all about a child writing a letter to a zoo to ask for a pet. The zoo sent several different pets until they found the right one. This has been a favourite in class where we had a book that makes the animal noises.



After you have listened to or read the book, if you have it, try some of the following to help with maths and literacy:

- Literacy – Children to make the sounds of each animal, adult to ask eg what sound does a frog make? Not all the animals are ideal for this
- Literacy/maths - Ask questions about each animal eg how many humps does the camel have? what colour is the elephant? Which animal was too jumpy?
- Maths – Compare animals, if you have some toy animals or pictures you can use these to see eg which is bigger, which is smaller, which is behind, which is in front.
- Literacy – can you think of other things that are scary, jumpy etc, how do these things make you feel?
- Maths – count the animals, either in the book or if you have some play animals can you get say three or five of them out?

Through the week you could also try some of the following ideas:

1. Let's Make

- As a fun activity you could try and make your own letter to the zoo, you could find some pictures of the pet you want or even get a picture of your own pet! You could get an adult to help you write some words describing the pet.
- Using resources from around your house you could try and make your own zoo. For example, you could use some building blocks to make the walls of the zoo.

2. Let's get messy

- For let's get messy we could go outside and find different objects such as sticks, leaves, grass, sand, mud, branches, stones put them in a bowl or a tray and place all the objects in and explore the objects. Find out if the animals sleep on these objects or eat these objects or maybe they even play with these objects. Also while we are touching and exploring each object we could say how they feel or how they smell.

3. Let's get moving

- Find objects around the home that match the description on the boxes eg. Heavy or fragile
- If you are able try to do some actions of each of the animals: eg. Jumping (frog) or swinging your arms (monkey).
- What about a race with other members of your household to find the animals (teddy bears or paper cut outs) to get them back to the zoo.

4. Let's take turns

- Choose an animal from the zoo. Using your voice, communication book or a symbol can you ask to swap your animal for a different one. You might ask mummy for the lion because she has the lion and you have monkey.
- Create a Dear Zoo story telling basket with objects mentioned in the story such as a lion, snake etc. Taking turns can you use your voice, communication book or a symbol to take turns telling the story using the story telling basket to help you.
- Build a perfect bed for your pet this could be out of lego, boxes or even a den! Take turns choosing objects to create the den and when it is finished take turns trying it out!

Here are some links to songs or other resources, that support the story, you might want to look at:

CBeebies signed bedtime story version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UywEnHKTMXk>

Dear zoo as a song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KsHXDPxozTk>

Dear Zoo activities website <http://www.dearzoofriends.com/activities>