

## Those Amazing Animals

### Learning about animals will help your child to:

- Understand and pay attention to more of the world around her
- Understand the parts and types of animals
- Discover how animals are the same or different from herself



### Ideas to try with your child:

- Play “Hocus Pocus.” Say: “Hocus pocus ala-kazaam, turn into a (animal) if you can,” and let your child act out that animal’s movements and sounds. Say “Hocus pocus ala-kazoo, turn back into you,” and your child then “turns back” into themselves. Continue the steps until your child is ready for another activity.
- Play a fun animal matching game. On the floor or a table, have two of each animal picture turned upside down and take turns flipping two cards over until a match is found. The player with the most matches wins. Follow this link to print off cards: <http://www.busybeekidsprintables.com/Animal-Memory-Games.html> .
- Look through a book or a magazine with animals at the library. Talk about what animals look the same and how some have stripes (like zebras and tigers) and some have horns (like deer and rams).

### If your child is struggling:

- Point out animals on TV, in books, or as toys and tell your child the sound they make. Have them make the sounds with you.
- Books to check out: Old McDonald Had a Farm by Jane Cabrera; Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing by Judi Barrett; I love Animals: Wild, Scary, Cute or Cuddly, We Love Them All! by Roger Priddy

### Going further:

- Compare a large group of animals that are the same, like cats (tigers, lions, house cats, panthers, etc.) and talk about them. Ask questions like: “How are they different from one another?” “Do they have different colors?” “Do they make different sounds?”
- Look for animals when you go on a walk and discuss them: “What animals did you see? Do you think you will see the same animals next time or different animals? Why?”

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children’s best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children Ages 3-4 years** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: “Begin to understand that some animals share similar characteristics (for example, a tiger and a pet cat share common features).” *Learning About My World, Ages-3-4 years*, pg. 64