



Learning to read depends on having and hearing a large vocabulary. Talk with your child about anything and everything. Share words with them during the brain's most formative five years and set them on a path of lifelong learning.

How to do this activity:

- 1 - Can your child name the animals on the picture in English and/or any other language spoken at home?
- 2 - What sound do these animals make? If you speak an additional language at home, what sound do these animals make in your language?
- 3 - Can your child trace a line with their finger or a pencil between each animal and its shadow? One shadow does not match exactly. Can your child find it?
- 4 - Ask your child to count the animals, then the shadows. Are there more shadows or is it the same number?
- 5 - Has your child ever seen any of these animals? Which animal do they think is the smallest? Which is the biggest? Which one spends a lot of its time on water? Which one gives us milk? Which one gives us wool? Which one lays eggs? What other animals might be found on a farm? Which is your child's favourite? Can they tell you why?
- 6 - Can you think of other questions you could ask your child? What is *your* favourite farm animal? Share your knowledge and experience with your child. If your child has a book featuring farm animals, make a mental note to read it with them.
- 7 - You could play a game of bingo with your child. Cut out the individual animal shadow cards. Take a line of three animals and give the other line to your child. Turn the shadow cards over in a pile. In turn, take a shadow card and place it on the corresponding animal on your line while naming it. If you don't have that animal on your line, you put the card back on the pile. The first one to complete a line has won the game.
- 8 - If you cut out all the animal and shadow cards and turn them over, you could also play a memory game.