

April 2015

SAVE THE DATES

Sun., Apr. 5th **HAPPY EASTER!**
Thurs., Apr. 16th Kona Ice
Thurs., Apr. 30th Kona Ice
May 4th-8th Teacher Appreciation Week

CURRICULUM

At the Museum

Week 1 & 2:
Dinosaurs Long Ago / Mr. Q
Week 3: Exploring Sounds / Ms. J
Week 4 & 5:
Planets and Stars / Mr. X

SPECIAL LEARNING:

Baby Animals

Week 1: Ducks
Week 2: Frogs/Tadpoles
Week 3: Birds
Week 4: Alligators
Week 5: Chickens

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Going to the Zoo

<http://www.theconfidentmom.com/06/family-manager/kids-going-to-zoo/>

Going to the zoo is a fun time for all ages, but especially children. It exposes them to animals both big and small. It's also a great opportunity to work with them on those "animal sounds" they hear in songs they sing and read. If it's their first time to a zoo, you can see their eyes open in amazement as they look upon a polar bear or lion for the first time. In addition, going to the zoo with your children is a learning experience. Coming face to face with these incredible creatures is something they will talk about for a long time. Moreover, zoos today not only allow for a fun time, but an educational one as well. Making a day trip to the zoo is fun – but can easily turn into a nightmare if you do not plan well. Here are a few tips and tricks to keep everyone's excitement high and crying to a minimum.



Plan Ahead. Take some time and check your local zoo web site for daily schedules and special events. This way you can pick a day which might have some special features you can see, which are already included in your admission! By checking out the zoo web site before the day of the trip, you can choose which exhibits you would like to visit and avoid wasting time upon arrival deciding where to go. You can print maps ahead of time and create an agenda.

Be Prepared. Visiting the zoo in the summer can bring about issues with temperature. Summer temperatures can be unbearable, so it's always a good idea to be prepared depending on what part of the country you live in. Here are some things to keep in mind when heading out during hot days.

- Dress children appropriately. Little bodies tend to get hot quickly, and if they are miserable everyone else will be, too. Bring an extra change of clothes, sunglasses, and hats. Don't forget the sunscreen!
- Bring lots of cold, iced-down water. Most zoos will not sell drinks with straws for fear of them being dropped and ending up in the animals' mouths (so refrain from bringing anything with straws). Water in squeeze bottles or sippy cups is a better choice.
- If bringing a baby, pack the diaper bag wisely. A day at the zoo can last a long time. Bring of diapers, bottles, pacifiers, extra clothes, and food. Strollers or wagons are always a good idea.

Know your Child's Limit

We each have children that can handle different levels of stimulation and excitement. Try to remember to plan some downtime during the zoo visit. Find a shady spot to rest and relax in the afternoon. If you have older kids who like to explore, give them the chance to view an area of the zoo as a group or with another adult, while younger ones take a break. Making sure you do not over-extend yourself and your children will keep the day running smoothly. By planning accordingly, thinking of ways to make the most of the day, and taking advantage of zoo resources, parents can make trips to the zoo memorable family events!

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SIX Games That Teach Tots About Animals

<http://www.whattoexpect.com/toddler/>

To toddlers and preschoolers, animals are endlessly fascinating, mostly because they seem just as silly, noisy, and cute as little kids. They're even easy and fun to imitate — one reason most toddlers can moo soon after they say “Mama.” Lots of tots are eager to learn about their furry or feathered friends (especially if you already have a pet), so try a few of these animal activities to boost your child's knowledge of the natural world.



1. Eat like an animal. Turn snack time into a lesson on what animals eat by filling a muffin tin with animal-friendly snacks: berries for bears, pumpkin seeds for birds, sliced bananas for monkeys, or baby carrots for rabbits. As your munchkin munches, have him try to guess which animals prefer each food — he can even match the treat to a lineup of pictures you've printed out. (Add a few sneaky snacks, like mini marshmallows — your little one will think it's hilarious that they're a favorite of those junk-food fiends, raccoons.)

2. Speak their language. You already quack like a duck or meow like a cat just to make your sweetie smile. But those aren't just silly sounds. They actually teach your child an important lesson in animal behavior — that animals use noises to communicate. To help the knowledge sink in, play this animal activity: Oink, bark, moo, or growl, and see if your tot can guess which animal you're imitating. With an older preschooler, you can name an animal and ask her to make the sound (“What does a lion say?”)

3. Build your own zoo. Most kids have a menagerie of stuffed animals, so why not give these furry friends a home? Brainstorm the perfect habitat, like a mixing bowl of (imaginary) water for his stuffed seal or cut out some brown construction paper to create a mud puddle for his plush pig. Group animals from similar places: sea creatures in one corner, barnyard critters in another. When you've finished your DIY zoo, take the grand tour together.

4. Do a dance. Your munchkin probably loves to get her groove on, so the next time you turn on the tunes to dance, transform the party into an animal activity. Take turns calling out different creatures to imitate. The two of you can waddle like a penguin, prance like a deer, lumber like a bear, or slither like a snake. To boost more large-motor skills, see if your tot can balance on one leg like a flamingo, tiptoe like a giraffe, or climb up the couch like a chimpanzee.

5. Watch nature in action. Your backyard is the perfect setting for lots of animal activities, including building homemade bird and squirrel feeders and then seeing who visits. Help your toddler slather peanut butter onto a pinecone, then roll it in a tray of birdseed. Hang the finished feeder on a tree branch with a bit of twine, and make time each day to watch for visitors (reapply the peanut butter and seeds as needed). If you can't name every bird, a kid-friendly field guide can help you identify whatever alights.

6. Become a tracker. Any child who's seen an episode of Blue's Clues understands that animals leave behind paw prints. Make your own Blue's Clues-style hunt by printing out paper versions of real animal tracks (just Google “printable animal tracks”) and hiding them around the house. Whenever your tot finds a paw print, ask him to guess the critter that created it. Up the fun by pressing your pipsqueak's paw in washable paint then stamping it onto a piece of paper. What a terrific track for Grandma to find!

BIRTHDAY CORNER A special HAPPY BIRTHDAY goes out to...

Cameron P. – Apr. 7 th	Giuliana C. – Apr. 12 th	Juliana L. – Apr. 12 th
Ethan G. – Apr. 14 th	Miss Mary – Apr. 14 th	Briana C. – Apr. 16 th
Jacob R. – Apr. 18 th	Gabriella M. – Apr. 21 st	Ashley T. – Apr. 21 st
Miss Sandra – Apr. 23 rd	Allison S. – Apr. 25 th	Nicholas B. – Apr. 27 th
Melody F. – Apr. 29 th	Camren G. – Apr. 30 th	

