

Funny Farm

(Target Audience: Preschool)

1. Dress up like a farmer and, if possible, decorate your story area to look like a barnyard (use stuffed animals, puppets, or pictures of farm things.)
2. Share some stories about farms and farm animals.

Examples:

- a. Stories with funny or mixed-up barnyard sounds:
 - Barnyard Banter* by Denise Fleming
 - The Cow Who Clucked* by Denise Fleming
 - Bob* by Tracey Campbell Pearson
 - The Cow that Went Oink* by Bernard Most
 - One Windy Wednesday* by Phyllis Root
 - b. Stories where the barnyard gets sick:
 - Barnyard Song* by Rhonda Gowler Greene
 - Farm Flu* by Teresa Bateman
 - The Flea's Sneeze* by Lynn Downey
 - c. Stories with funny farm animals doing silly things:
 - Cows in the Kitchen* by June Crebbin.
 - Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type* by Doreen Cronin
 - Giggle, Giggle, Quack* by Doreen Cronin
 - Punk Farm* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka
 - The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash* by Trinka Hakes Noble
3. Sing some songs about farms but add a silly twist.
(Use puppets or stuffed animals too if you have them!)
 - a. Old MacDonald Had a Farm*
Try adding some verses for animals that wouldn't usually be in the barnyard:

"Old MacDonald had a farm. E I E I O
And on that farm he had some monkeys. E I E I O
With an 'ee-oo-h-ee' here. And an 'ee-oo-h-ee' there.
Old MacDonald had a farm. E I E I O"

*A good version of this song can be found on the CD *Sing Along with Bob #2* by Bob McGrath
 - b. Down by the Bay
Switch it to "Down on the Farm" and think of lots of silly rhymes like: "Did you ever see a goat, eating a coat, down on the farm."

c. Down on Grandpa's Farm*

Try adding some verses about animals that do an action instead of making a sound:

"Down on Grandpa's farm there is a kangaroo. (Repeat)
The 'roo he goes a lot like this...hop hop (Repeat)
We're on our way; we're on our way, on our way to
Grandpa's farm. (Repeat)"

Or try adding verses about non-animal things that may be "down on the farm":

"Down on Grandpa's farm there is an old red tractor. (Repeat)
The tractor it goes a lot like this...putter putter wheeze"
(Repeat)"... Etc.

*A good version of this song can be found on the CD *Great Big Hits* by Sharon, Lois and Bram

4. Play a "Mixed-up Farm Sound" Game

Ask the children to identify which "farm" animal make a particular sound and then, after they have guessed, tell them it's a completely different animal than what they thought. (You can use pictures of farm animals or puppets.)

Example: Which animal makes a sound like this "Baaaaaa" ?
The children will guess "Sheep."
You say, "No, you're wrong" and then show them a stuffed pink flamingo.

5. Make your own "Funny Farm"

- a. Before your program, prepare pre-cut pictures of different farm animals as well as some cartoon speech bubbles (some should have different things that animals might say, "Moo!" "Baa!" "Fa la la la la!", and some could be blank so the kids can add their own ideas). Also prepare a farmyard background for each child by drawing a simple farm scene (i.e. barn, silo, fields, etc.) and photocopying enough copies of it for each child.
- b. To make a "funny farm," have the children paste the animals on their paper farm and then paste the speech bubbles above them but tell them that the sounds they use shouldn't match their chosen animals. (Children should also feel free to match the right sound with the right animal if they prefer.)