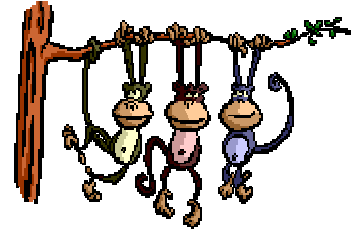


Funny Animals Oh! Those Silly Animals (Target Audience: Ages 6–8)



Starting off with some jokes will get the kids ready for fun!
Choose some animal jokes from pg.158.

Participation Stories

Too Much Noise by Ann McGovern

It Could Always be Worse: A Yiddish Folk Tale by Margot Zemach

The Squeaky Door by Margaret Read MacDonald

Either of these stories will work well. Children can be divided into groups and assigned an animal noise. They can participate by making their noise when mentioned in the story. They will have lots of fun participating in this lively and noisy tale!

Check your shelves for other favourite stories about animals. Many can be adapted for participation.

Dramatic Play - "Animal Crackers Charades"

Materials:

- 1 box of Animal Crackers

One child picks out an animal cracker from the box, making sure that no one can see what they have picked. The child turns around and eats the cracker and then "becomes" that animal. They act out the animal they are pretending to be through motions and the others guess what animal it is. The one who guesses correctly is the next animal cracker eater!

"Animal Scramble"

Children move about in the room to music. When the music stops, a number and an animal is called out. Children must quickly form into groups of that number and create the shape of the animal using their bodies.

Craft - "Crazy Creatures"

Materials:

- discarded magazines (nature and wildlife ones are best)
- scissors (enough for each child or small groups of children to share)
- plain white paper

- construction paper that is larger than the white paper
- glue sticks
- ink pens
- markers

The children search through old magazines for pictures of animals. They can cut out a few different animals.

Children cut the animals into two or three pieces (strips would work well). They should separate different body parts (e.g. head, torso, tail).

Children then arrange the different animal sections in a mixed-up way. For example, they can put the head of a lion on the body of a giraffe with the tail of a monkey. The pieces then get glued on the white paper to create a new and crazy creature!

The children can name their crazy creature (e.g. they could make a combination of all the animal names such as “limoraffe” for a lion, giraffe and monkey combination). Or they could just give it some other imaginative names. They can print the name of their crazy creature underneath.

The pictures can then be mounted on construction paper to create a picture frame effect and the “frame” can be decorated.

Alternatively, if some children are artistically inclined and like to draw, they can draw their own animals, cut them up and create their own crazy creatures instead of cutting out pictures from magazines. Or, they can use images from the SRC clipart, or another clipart source such as Microsoft Word. See the program “Funny Scrolls” on the next page for another variation on this activity.