

ZOO ANIMALS

K - PRIMARY

DRAMATIC PLAY

PLAY 1

Instructions:

- To be thoroughly prepared, read through entire play prior to including the children.
- Follow the instructions shown in the shaded areas and recite the lines shown in *italic*.
- Suggested ad lib lines are provided. Teacher can add additional ad lib lines as necessary to encourage children to vocalize.
- As you work through the play, acknowledge each child, sighting specific accomplishments as they contribute to the scene.
- Play ends with the children taking a bow and applauding for themselves and their friends.

In line with the following NAEYC® and private preschool areas of development:
Social and Emotional Development
• Physical Development • Self-Help and Life Skills • Cognitive Development • Language Development • Creative Expression and Appreciation for the Arts • Nature Studies

The Missing Cub

PROPS INCLUDE: Backpack and a teddy bear (both are optional).

CHARACTERS: TEACHER, CHILDREN

SET UP: Teacher and children are on a field trip to the zoo and just departing the bus when the play begins.

BEGIN

TEACHER: What a great bus ride! Let's all get off the bus and stretch our legs.

Teacher leads the children in pretending to move down the steps and then stretch their legs.

TEACHER: It will be great to visit all the zoo animals! Put your backpacks on and we'll get moving.

Teacher leads the children by demonstrating putting their backpacks on.

Teacher promotes ad lib. i.e. What animals will we see? What's your favorite animal?, etc.

TEACHER: Wow! Look at the amazing bears!

Teacher leads the children to the bear habitat.

TEACHER: There are six different species of bears. Most bears are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals. A baby bear is called a cub. Look over there at the cub! It looks just like a teddy bear! Bears do not live in groups. Other than mother and baby, bears prefer to live alone. Let's walk around like a hungry bear looking for food! If you were a bear, what would you eat?

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THE MISSING CUB (CONTINUED)

Teacher promotes ad lib. i.e. Would you eat rabbits? Would you eat berries? Maybe fish? etc.

TEACHER: I see the kangaroos. Follow me!

Teacher leads the children to the kangaroo habitat.

TEACHER: Most kangaroos live in Australia. Kangaroos are marsupials, which means they are mammals that carry their young in a pouch. Baby kangaroos are called joeys and groups of kangaroos are known as mobs. Kangaroos are herbivores, which means they eat only plants. If you could eat only plants, what plant would you eat?

Teacher promotes ad lib. i.e. Would you eat carrots? Would you eat broccoli? How about spinach?, etc.

Suddenly, the kangaroos all get loose and are jumping around the children.

TEACHER: Oh my! The kangaroos are on the loose and jumping all around us! Look at the adorable little baby kangaroo – the joey. Let's jump around with the joey!

Teacher leads the children as they jump around the room like kangaroos.

TEACHER: Hey, I see the giraffes! Let's visit them.

Teacher leads the children to the giraffe habitat.

TEACHER: Look up at the tall giraffes, with their long necks and beautiful spots! Giraffes live only on the continent of Africa. A baby giraffe is called a calf and groups of giraffes are called herds. Giraffes are also herbivores. Remember, that means they eat only plants. Did you know that giraffes sleep standing up? In fact, giraffes rarely lay down. Let's walk around like a giraffe with our necks stretched high. If you were as tall as a giraffe, what would you do?

Teacher promotes ad lib. i.e. Would you help get cats out of trees? Would you help change the light bulbs on the ceiling lights? Would you help baby birdies back to their nests?, etc.

TEACHER: Say goodbye to the giraffes, we are off to visit the aardvarks.

Teacher leads the children to the aardvark habitat.

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THE MISSING CUB (CONTINUED)

TEACHER: Aardvarks live in Africa. Their name means "earth pig." They have very long noses that look a bit like a pig snout on the end. Aardvarks are omnivores, which mean they eat both meat and plants. An aardvark's favorite meal is termites, but they also eat ants and a fruit known as an aardvark cucumber or aardvark pumpkin. Aardvarks are nocturnal, which means they sleep during the day and they are awake at night. A baby aardvark is called a cub. Let's all walk around like an aardvark looking for an

