**Dear Zoo**

This is a lovely story that leads on nicely from Jack and the beanstalk because you can also use this story to talk about size. Below are some lovely activities that you could try. I am sure you will also have many lovely ideas of your own. Please feel free to share these activities with your teacher via the EYFS email. [eyfs@sandbach-pri.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:eyfs@sandbach-pri.cheshire.sch.uk).

There are web links below. Please look at them first before showing your child.

* Try wrapping up different sized boxes. Talk about size and what might fit in the box.
* Read or watch this book with your child. Get your child to guess what could be in each of the containers. When they see the animal ask them if they think that could be a good pet.
* Try making labels for your boxes, younger children could mark make on the labels and older children could try writing out the labels with your support.
* If you have tin foil, try wrapping some of your child’s toys in it. Then get them to feel it and tell you what it feels like. They could then make a guess at what it is.
* Talk about what could be the possible problems having each animal as a pet e.g. how would the giraffe get through the door etc.
* Talk about what pets might need to stay healthy e.g. food, water etc
* Draw pictures of the animals. Older pupils could try and write the animals name or the first letter of the animals name.
* Look at the wording on the crates and talk about what each word might mean e.g. fragile. Then look around your house for other things that might go in that box.
* Talk about what each animal looks like and make the noises of each animal.
* Play an animal game. Make up movements for each animal and practice them. When you child is confident with the moves you say an animal and your child moves around like the animal.
* Using a circle of paper, you could make animal masks and act out when story.
* What happens at the zoo? What do zookeepers do? what do the animals eat.
* Chester zoo have been doing some virtual zoo tours. <https://www.chesterzoo.org/virtual-zoo-2/> (scroll down to the bottom and you can watch all their previous virtual zoo’s) you could go on a virtual school trip to the zoo, do not forget your sandwiches for the picnic.
* You can talk about weight. What can you find that is heavy and what you can find that is light?
* You could make some binoculars to help you on your hunt around your house. You can do this by cutting a carboard kitchen towel tube in half. Taping them together and decorating them.
* If you have playdough, then you could make some of the animals. Whilst doing this you could look at the animals features e.g. let’s make a long neck for the giraffe etc.
* You could make a maths game by drawing an outline of a giraffe and using a circular cereal such as Cheerio’s/Rice Krispies/ Coco Pops etc to make the spots. You could say or write how many spots you want your child to put onto the giraffe. Or you could cut out some circles of paper for you child to use as spots.
* If you have Lego or building blocks you could make giraffes with different lengths of neck. Can your child find the tallest, can they find the shortest?
* You could find different items around your house that are spotty/ stripy. Now get your child to try and put these in groups of stripy items or spotty items. You could do this with different colours as well.

My first pet dog video

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/my-first-pet>

Dear zoo matching game

<http://www.dearzooandfriends.com/DearZoo/CardMatch/index.html>

Dear zoo sound game

<http://www.dearzooandfriends.com/DearZoo/NoisyFarm/index.html>

Stories

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rudDGRQ9QGA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VT9Q42tTxqg>

Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loGGsgJnckY>