

The Grand Rapids Children's Museum

Where children come to *Play and Learn!*



Songs, Books and Activities
About the Farm
Especially for YOUR Toddler!



Books to Share

There are lots of great books about the farm You and your child will enjoy reading some of these together!

- *Arthur on the Farm* by Marc Brown
- *Big Red Barn Board Book* by Margaret Wise Brown, illustrated by Felicia Bond
- *The Farm Book (A Golden Super Shape Book)* by Jan Pfloog
- *Inside A Barn in the Country* by Alyssa Satin Capucilli, illustrated by Tedd Arnold
- *Mary Had A Little Lamb* by Sarah Josepha Hale, illustrated by Salley Mayor
- *Old MacDonald's Farm (Board Book)* illustrated by Liz Pichon
- *Open the Barn Door (A Chunky Book)* by Christopher Santoro
- *Rock-a-Bye Farm* by Diane Johnston-Hamm, illustrated by Alexi Natchev
- *The Carrot Seed* by Ruth Krauss, illustrated by Crockett Johnson
- *Who Took The Farmer's Hat?* by Joan L. Nodset & Joan M. Lexau, illustrated by Fritz Siebel
- *My Fuzzy Farm Babies: A Book to Touch & Feel* by Tad Hills
- *Funny Farm (Photo Baby Board Book)* by Tom Arma



Look for more book suggestions on these websites:

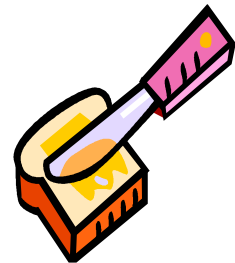
- <http://stepbystepcc.com/farm.html>
- <http://kinderkorner.com/farm.html>

Time to Play

Using a few inexpensive materials that you probably already have at home, you and your child can do these farm-related activities together.

Make Your Own Butter

1. Fill a small jar about half full with whipping cream.
2. Take turns shaking the jar until the cream thickens and turns into butter.
3. You can speed up the process by putting a (clean) marble in the jar.
4. When your butter is ready, spread some on a cracker or piece of bread and enjoy!

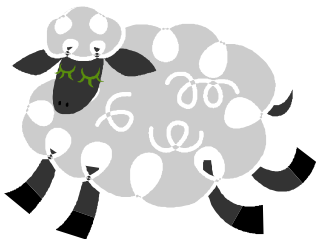


Gathering Eggs

1. Materials needed: Plastic eggs in assorted colors, small basket with handle
2. "Hide" eggs around the room so they can be easily found.
3. Ask your child to gather the eggs in the basket.
4. After eggs are gathered, you and your child may count them and/or sort them by color.

Woolly Sheep

1. Materials needed: White construction paper or card stock, white glue, brush for spreading glue, cotton balls, scissors
2. Trace around your child's spread out hand on the paper.
3. Cut out the hand shape.
4. Help child brush glue on the palm portion of the hand shape.
5. Your child can then stick cotton balls on the hand shape.
6. Turn the shape so the fingers are pointing down (sheep's legs) and the thumb is pointing to the side (sheep's head).
7. You or your child can then draw facial features and ears on the head and hooves on the ends of the legs with a black crayon or marker.



More Time to Play



Apple Tree Art

Materials needed: Green construction paper, red pom-poms (fuzzy balls available at craft stores), white glue, and a shallow dish

1. Cut out an apple tree shape from construction paper.
2. Show your child how to dip a pom into a dish of glue and stick it on the tree shape.
3. Give your child 8-10 more pom-poms to glue to the tree.

Craft Stick Garden

Materials needed: Sturdy shoe box, large craft sticks (tongue depressors), sharp knife (for adult use only)

1. Put the lid on the box and cut two rows of four 1" slits.
2. Set out eight large craft sticks and let your child fill each slit with a stick.
3. You and your child can decorate the sticks with markers to represent fruits, vegetables and flowers.

Fruit and Vegetable Art

Materials needed: One or two firm fruits and/or vegetables (apple, carrot, potato, etc.)

1. Cut fruit or vegetable in half so there is a flat surface.
2. Dip the flat surface in a shallow dish of washable paint and print on a sheet of paper. Use only one or two colors of paint to avoid overwhelming your toddler with choices.

Visit a Farm or Farmer's Market

There are lots of farms and farmer's markets in the Grand Rapids area that provide opportunities for fun family visits. Many also schedule special seasonal activities such as corn mazes, hayrides, pumpkin picking and cutting your own Christmas tree.

Follow these links for locations:

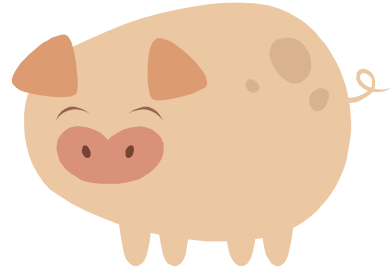
- Farms: <http://www.michigan.org/Things-to-Do/Attractions/Farms-and-Mills/Default.aspx?city=G3095>
- Farmer's markets: <http://www.michigan.org/Things-to-Do/Shopping/Farm-Markets/Default.aspx?city=G3095&lm=pf>



Songs and Poems About the Farm

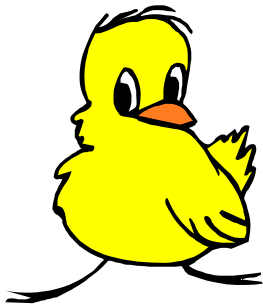
TWO MOTHER PIGS

Two mother pigs lived in a pen,
(two thumbs up)
Each had four babies and that made ten.
(wiggle four fingers on each hand)
These four babies were pink and white.
(wiggle four fingers on one hand)
These four babies were black as night.
(wiggle four fingers on the other hand)
All eight babies loved to play.
(Wiggle eight fingers)
And they rolled and rolled in the mud all day.
(Roll hands)
At night, with their mother, they curled up in a heap,
(make fists, palms up)
And squealed and squealed 'til they went to sleep.
(tuck thumbs under fingers)



TEN FLUFFY CHICKS

Five eggs and five eggs,
(hold up five fingers and five fingers)
That makes ten.
(wiggle ten fingers)
Sitting on top is the Mother Hen
(lock fingers together, knuckles up)
Crackle, crackle, crackle, what do I see?
(clap hands)
Ten fluffy chickens as yellow as can be.
(hold up ten fingers)



THE FARMER

Sun is coming up
Farmer's out the door,
He will go to milk the cows,
And start his daily chores.
Sun is going down
Horse is in the stable,
All the fields are planted now,
Supper's on the table.



More Songs and Poems About the Farm

THE TRACTOR IN THE FIELD

Tune: "The Wheels on the Bus"

The tractor in the field goes round and round,
Round and round, round and round.
The tractor in the field goes round and round
All around the farm.

The cow in the pasture goes moo moo moo,
Moo moo moo, moo moo moo.
The cow in the pasture goes moo moo moo
All around the farm.

The horse in the stable goes neigh neigh neigh...
The pig in the pen goes oink, oink, oink...
The duck in the pond goes quack, quack, quack,..
The rooster on the fence goes cock-a-doodle-do,,,

(You and your child can make up more verses too!)



FIVE FRIENDLY FARMERS

Five friendly farmers
Wake up with the sun,
For it is early morning
And the chores must be done.
The first friendly farmer
Goes to milk the cow.
The second friendly farmer
Thought he'd better plow.
The third friendly farmer
Feeds the hungry hens.
The fourth friendly farmer
Puts the piggies in their pens.
The fifth friendly farmer
Picks the ripe corn.
And waves to the neighbor
When he blows his horn.
When the work is finished
And the evening sky is red
Five tired farmers
Tumble into bed!



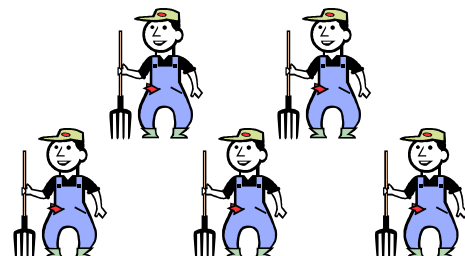
EVERY DAY ON THE FARM

Tune: "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush"

This is the way we milk the cows, milk the cows,
milk the cows,
This is the way we milk the cows
Every day on the farm.

This is the way we mow the hay..
This is the way we feed the chicks...
This is the way we pick the corn...
This is the way we shear the sheep...

(How many more farm jobs can you think of?)





Additional Resources

We found many of the songs, poems and activities in this booklet at the following websites. Check them out—they're full of great activities on a variety of subjects!

http://www.preschooexpress.com/theme_station07/the-farm-sep07.shtml

<http://www.everythingpreschool.com/themes/farmanimals/index.htm>

http://www.angelfire.com/dc/childsplay/Down_on_the_Farm_Theme.htm#songs

<http://www.after-school-care.com/Replies.aspx?Post=50&ReplyPage=2>

<http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/songspoems55.html>

<http://kiddyhouse.com/Farm/>