



BOOK: Old MacDonald

Before Reading:

1. Read the book to yourself before reading to your child.
2. Choose a place to read that is well lit and cozy.
3. Invite your child to read by saying, “Let’s see what animals are on Old MacDonald’s farm!”

During Reading:

1. This book lends itself to singing the words, so sing them!
2. Exaggerate the animal sounds on each page!
3. Ask your child before you start the second reading, “This time, can you find the mouse on each page?” This is a question posed from the author on the first page but will be more effective on the second read. Giving your child something to focus on will help build their attention span.

After Reading:

Problem-solving skills: It is pretty easy to get your hands on an easy puzzle with farm animals. Puzzles promote so many skills, one of which is problem solving. If you don’t have a puzzle handy, trace one of the scenes from the book, color it, cut it into easy shapes, and help your child put the picture back together.

Math: Each page in the book focuses on one particular animal. After reading the book a few times, take a minute to stop and count the number of each type of animal in the scenes of the book.

Art: Most of the animals in this book can be made with your child’s thumbprint. Purchase a few colored stamp pads and use thumbprints to create a head and a body. All of the other features including legs, ears, wings, etc. can be added with markers or crayons. Your child can create their own Old MacDonald’s farm!

Dramatic Play: Introduce your child to an early version of charades. Take turns acting out each animal in the story and guess what animal it is! This game teaches your child to pay attention to all of the characteristics of each animal—the sound they make; if they stand on 2 or 4 feet; if they have wings; or, any other number of qualities they may have!

