



Introduction

In this programme, children from Carebears Community Playgroup in Newtownstewart visit a farm. They ride on a tractor and trailer to see all the animals. They learn about the different features of the animals and have the opportunity to handle and feed baby animals.

The Hurley Burley man sings a song about how animals keep warm and reads a story called "Wee Mouse".

Learning Opportunities

The Arts

- Listen to and identify animal sounds
- Listen to and join in with songs about animals/farms
- Explore animal sounds using their voices and a variety of instruments
- Create pictures and models of animals and their homes
- Explore textures e.g. fur, feathers

Language Development

- Talk about animals e.g. their homes, features, young, food they eat, how they move, the sounds they make, their pets
- Listen to stories and rhymes about animals/farms
- Recall of visits to zoo/farm

Early Mathematical Experiences

- Match animals to their homes/young
- Count small numbers of animals
- Compare sizes of animals/shapes of feet

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Be aware of safety issues of being around animals
- Show respect for animals

- Appreciate the special relationship between mother and baby animal

Physical Development and Movement

- Fine motor skills for drawing, painting and making models

The World Around Us

- Observe animals e.g. their features, how they move, their coats, what they eat, the sounds they make, where they live
- Talk about how to care for animals
- Find out about the young of different animals
- Observe shadows

Suggested Activities

- Make a 'feely box' with wool, feathers, leather, suede, velvet etc. inside. Get the children to think of the different animals that they are reminded of as they explore the different textures.
- Use a similar range of materials to make a collage or wall display
- Make a chart showing the favourite foods of animals and put small farm animals under the display. Encourage the children to match the animals to the food they eat.
- Provide a range of musical instruments (both commercial and home made) and everyday objects so that children can explore sounds and create a sound for each animal.
- Make simple matching, sorting and memory games with pictures of farm animals e.g. linking animals with their homes, their young and what they eat.
- Help the children draw around their feet. Compare lengths, shapes sizes.
- Make an interest table by making prints on paper from different sorts of shoes e.g. slipper, ballet shoe, stiletto or boot. Encourage the children to match the shoe to the silhouette.
- Gather together some information books showing paw prints and animal tracks. Ask the children if the paw prints look like our foot prints.

- Share a range of poems, rhymes, songs and stories about the farm and its animals with the children. Encourage the children to illustrate these.