



DEAR ZOO FUN!

Speech & Language Ideas for Parents and Young Children

Talk About Dear Zoo!

Use the book “Dear Zoo” to boost speech and language skills!

Key Words to Use:

- **Animals:** elephant, lion, giraffe, snake, monkey, frog
- **Sounds:** roar, hiss, growl, jump, stomp
- **Size words:** big, small, heavy, tall

Tip: Repeat new words often —
“Oh, an elephant! Such a big elephant!”

Boosting Speech & Listening Skills

- **Model, don’t correct:** Repeat words clearly and add one more word (“monkey – Funny monkey!”)
- **Follow their lead:** Talk about what your child is interested in.
- **Use gestures and expressions.** Point, act out, and use sound effects
- **Praise efforts!** “I loved hearing you say “roar!! You’re so good at making lion sounds!”

Activities for Language Growth

1. Animal Sounds Game

- Take turns making animal noises.
- Say: “Who says hiss?” or “Let’s find the lion!”

2. Dear Zoo Story Time

- Read the “Dear Zoo” book together,
- Name and describe each animal as you read.
- Ask questions: “What’s in the box?” “What is it?” “What does it say?”

3. Zoo Adventure Play

- Use zoo animal toys, play with stuffed animals, or pretend your house is a zoo!
- Model language: “The lion is roaring.” “The giraffe is very tall.”

4. Singing & Rhymes

- Sing fun zoo-themed songs such as “The Animals at the Zoo” or “Down in the Jungle.”
- Pause to let your child fill in the missing animal or sound.

Remember: Everyday play is a chance to build speech, language, and imagination. Talk, sing, play — and have fun together at the zoo!

