

Activities I Can Do at Home with My Toddler for



Learning Themes:
Zoo/Jungle/Trains

Learning Concepts:
Animal categories; tame compared to wild; colors, imitation of animal motions and sounds, and identification of animals and trains

These are not date specific, so you can pick whatever works for your family. You may want to try them all or pick a few favorites to do more than once. The idea is to have fun.

1. **Sensory Jello Play:** Make jello in a bowl or in a shallow pan and add small toys that they will have to take out. Do this activity at a table or in the highchair. Eat it after playing in it.
2. **Read Polar Bear Polar Bear What Do You Hear:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehoGdGokXfc&t=7s>
3. **Fine Motor:** Have them pull the tape from the dispenser and stick it on a surface. Put some pieces of tape on the table or their tray and have them peel it off. You can use masking tape to see it better or scotch tape if it is on a colored background so they can see.
4. **Gross Motor:** Hop like a kangaroo, waddle like a penguin, slither like a snake (crawl on your tummy), stomp like an elephant
5. Use a Q-tip to paint black stripes on a zebra picture. <https://www.freekidscrafts.com/striped-zebras/pattern-zebra-08/>
6. **Make Lion Snack:** Spread hummus on a giant cracker. Put shredded cheese around outside for mane. Put two raisins on the face and a ½ pretzel for a mouth.
7. **Jungle Crawl:** String party streamers under your kitchen table and through the chairs. Have them crawl through the jungle maze trying not to break the streamers (Tearing streamers is a fine motor activity)
8. **Build zoo enclosures** out of boxes, blocks, cans and put stuffed animals or plastic animals inside.
9. **Go on a safari hunt:** Go outside and look around. Talk about what you see or hear.
- 10: **Make a cage:** Take a box and put a stuffed animal inside. Pull and stick the tape down the front of the open box, making four strips 4 inches apart to make a cage.
11. **Read the book, Dear Zoo** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DW5_gmd4ahY
- 12: **Pretzel stick and sting cheese giraffe snack:** Take a piece of string cheese and cut a small piece off for the giraffe head. Use one long piece of string cheese as the body. Poke four pretzel sticks in the bottom of the cheese to make legs. Poke one long pretzel stick on top to make a neck. Put small pieces of cheese on the neck pretzel stick to make its head. You can break up two small pieces of pretzel for the antennas.
13. **Sensory:** Play with unpopped popcorn in bins with animals and scoops.
14. **Color a paper plate and make it into an animal mask.**
15. **Make a jungle** out of rocks, sticks, and plants.
16. **Go to the Zoo or watch animals online** through a video website or animal cam.
17. **Songs:** This is the Way
18. **Snack: Banana Popsicle:** Put banana on a fork, dip in melted chocolate, freeze on waxed paper in the freezer.
19. **Ball Play:** Kick a Ball, Throw a ball, Roll a ball, Aim a ball at a target, or Throw it in a basket

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20. Make Monkey Pancakes.
Make a Medium size one and put peanut butter on. Make a small size pancake for the nose. Use raisins or chocolate chips for mouth.
21. Build zoo enclosures for animal figurines.
22. Make animal tracks in playdough or with paint on paper.
23. Sing the Song: The Funky Spunky Monkey
24. Put items in the elephant's trunk (paper towel roll art). See picture.
25. Sing: The Animals At The Zoo song
26. Read the book: Goodnight Gorilla
27. String Cheerios or fruit loops on a pipe cleaner to make a snake or worm.

28. Sing the Song: [Zoo Song | We're Going to the Zoo | Kindergarten & Preschool Songs | Sing & Dance Little Action Kids - YouTube](#)

29. Make a trail mix: sort snack in a muffin tin

30. Read the book: Slowly, Slowly, Slowly Said the Sloth by Eric Carle

31. Tape or attach an ace wrap to the floor, making a line. Jump over the line or walk on it.

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|--------------------|----------------|----------|------------|---------|--------|
| Vocabulary: | giraffe | elephant | monkey | lion | swim |
| | Zoo | cage | zoo keeper | puppy | sticky |
| | frog | camel | polar bear | hippo | |
| | flamingo(bird) | zebra | snake | leopard | |
| | peacock | walrus | open | tall | |
| | big | happy | hop | roar | |
| | snap | clap | laugh | waddle | |

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Songs:

The Animals at the Zoo Submitted by: Cecilia Harris

Sung to: "The Wheels on the Bus"

The lions at the Zoo go roar, roar, roar,
Roar, roar, roar,
Roar, roar, roar,
The lions at the Zoo go roar, roar, roar,
All day long!

The snakes at the Zoo go hiss, hiss, hiss,
Hiss, hiss, hiss,
Hiss, hiss, hiss,
The snakes at the Zoo go hiss, hiss, hiss,
All day long!

The hyenas at the Zoo go ha, ha, ha,
Ha, ha, ha,
Ha, ha, ha,
The hyenas at the Zoo go ha, ha, ha,
All day long!

The monkeys at the Zoo go ooh, ooh, ooh,
Ooh, ooh, ooh,
Ooh, ooh, ooh,
The monkeys at the Zoo go ooh, ooh, ooh,
All day long!

Add your favorite animals, or let your kids come up with new ones to sing. You can also add hand movements.

The Funky Spunky Monkey (tune Itsy Bitsy)

The funky spunky monkey climbed up the coconut tree.
Down came a coconut and bopped him on the knee.
Out came a lion a shaking his mighty mane.
And the funky spunky monkey climbed up the tree again. OR

The funky spunky monkey climbed up the coconut tree.
Down came a coconut and bopped him on the knee.
Along came his mama, who hugged away the pain.
And the funky spunky monkey climbed up the tree again.

This is the way (to the tune: Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush)

This is the way the elephant stomps, the elephant stomps,
the elephant stomps, this is the way the elephant stomps in
the Zoo. (stomp around the room as you sing this)

Insert new words in underlines:

Lion roars (stop and roar after the word roar)
Seal claps (bark and clap like a seal)
Kangaroo hops (hop around the room)
Hyena laughs (hahaha)
Alligator snaps (make arms big and snap your hands together)
Penguin waddles (walk around the room like a penguin)
Hippo swims (swimming motion with hands)

