

A Horse Isn't Just a Horse!

Animal puppets promote movement and imagination!



Ages 2 to 4

Try this activity and watch children's imaginations and gross-motor skills soar—or gallop, trot, and canter! A set of animal hand puppets is all that's needed to inspire creativity in movement and dramatic play. Jungle Puppet Set includes Lion, Tiger, Crocodile, Elephant, and Toucan; Farm Puppet Set includes Cow, Mouse, Horse, Duck, and Pig.

Objective

Develop gross-motor, listening, creative thinking, and creative movement skills.

Equipment

Item # 15-545 **Jungle Animals Puppet Set**

Item # 15-518 **Farm Animals Puppet Set**

Directions

1. Using the animal puppet of your choice, talk to the children about the animal, where it lives, what sound it makes, how it moves, etc.
2. Ask the children to move around the room as if they were the animal you've chosen. Encourage them to make animal sounds too!
3. Continue discussing and imitating as many of the puppet animals as time allows. Feel free to tie this activity in with a story or song that involves animals.

Options

- Guide the children to create pathways using building blocks. Using your choice of puppet again, have the children move through the pathways as that animal. Consider adding some background music that approximates the sounds of the animal(s) you are featuring.
- Invite the children to listen carefully to your directions as you describe movements for them to try. For example: "We are all horses. I'd like the horses to trot to the back of the room"; or "We are all tigers. I'd like the tigers to ferociously prowl to the door." Then give other children in the group an opportunity to provide their own movement instructions for the group.

