

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

OUR WEEK WITH

Building Buddies

experience
toddler



This week, let's read books about being resourceful. Find this one at your library or on YouTube:



Not a Stick
by Antoinette Portis

TOGETHER

TIME

Stick Design

What?

In the story of the week at school, we learned about a raccoon who had to figure out how to cross a river. He used resourcefulness to build a bridge out of sticks and other materials that can be found outside. This week, go outside and build with sticks.

How?

Go on a walk and gather as many sticks as you can. Ask your child what they would like to build: a bridge, boat or house. Work together to build it with the sticks.

Why?

This activity supports logic and encourages an appreciation of earth science.



Building Buddies Calendar

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language & literacy

BOOK DISCOVERY Read to Raccoon

LLD 5 CONCEPTS OF PRINT

Pretend to read books. Practice turning pages from front to back.

math & reasoning

NUMBER PLAY Counting Sticks

MR 1 NUMBER SENSE

Count quantities up to five.

music & movement

RHYTHM PATTERNS Wall Drum

CA 1 MUSIC

Use craft sticks to tap on paper oval "drums" that are taped to the wall.

art & drama

DRAMATIC PLAY Grass Crown

★ SCI 2 NATURAL & EARTH SCIENCE

Make a headband, practice snipping with scissors and put insect stickers in the grass.

LESSON
1

LESSON
2

PICTURES & LETTERS Fly Bird, Crawl Cat

LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Practice signing "bird" and "cat," then walk toward the picture signed.

LIFE SKILLS Safe Sticks

PD 3 SAFETY

Practice how to hold and walk with a stick safely.

SOUNDS & SIGNS Cat & Bird Sign Song

CA 2 DANCE & MOVEMENT

Listen for the words "cat" and "bird." Sign the words to the music.

COLLAGING Flamingo Puppet

★ LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Make a flamingo puppet and answer simple questions.

LESSON
3

COMMUNICATION Bridge Over Water

★ SED 4 SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

Explore making bridges with the body and balancing stuffed animals on the back.

SENSORY PLAY Calming Waves

SED 2 SELF-REGULATION

Trace over the river waves and relax quietly.

GROUP DANCE Pass the Orange

SED 3 ATTENTION & PERSISTENCE

Listen to a song and pass a toy orange around a circle.

PAINTING Orange Design

CA 3 VISUAL ARTS

Explore mixing red and yellow paint to make orange.

LESSON
4

STORY PLAY Hold a Stick

LLD 6 READING COMPREHENSION

Build a bridge for the Story Piece characters while re-reading the story.

SORTING & SHAPES Shape Beetles

★ MR 3 SHAPES

Play a matching game with Shape Cards, then recreate shape/color patterns with the Pattern Strips.

COORDINATION Squish an Oval

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Explore squishing playdough balls to make ovals.

COLORING Raccoon River

LLD 7 WRITING

Color the raccoon and river, then tape or glue on a real stick.

LESSON
5

ACTIVE LISTENING Draw a Bridge

LLD 6 READING COMPREHENSION

Draw or scribble while listening to a read-aloud. Use the drawings to retell the story.

MEASURE WITH ME River Jumps

MR 4 MEASUREMENT

Explore stepping over or jumping over a blanket. Pretend it is a river.

CREATIVE MOVEMENT Safari Movements

★ PD 1 GROSS MOTOR

Take turns rolling a cube and exploring movement prompts.

STICKER ART Building Buddy Stickers

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Place stickers on paper to make a design.



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

OUR WEEK WITH

Safari

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toddler



TOGETHER

TIME

The Great Migration

What?

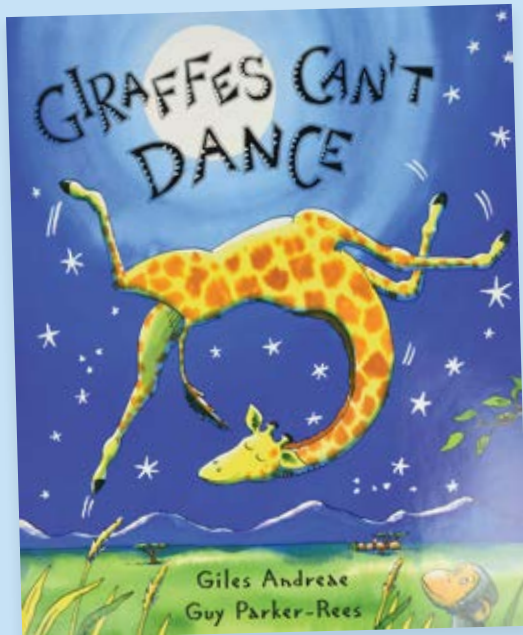
In the story of the week, we followed paths on a page to discover different types of safari animals. Make a path through your house and, with your child, follow it like animals on migration across the great plains.

How?

Use masking tape to make a path through your hall, under the kitchen table and to a special place behind your couch. Put a snack, books or animal toys behind the couch.

Why?

This activity supports geography skills as your child practices walking on a path. They will also learn about animals and how they migrate to find food, water and safety.



Giraffes Can't Dance
by Giles Andreae



Safari Calendar



experience
toddler



LESSON 1

language & literacy

COMMUNICATION Continent Toss

★ LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Look at a World Map and talk about colors and animals of the world.

math & reasoning

MEASURE WITH ME Color Squirt

MR 4 MEASUREMENT

Explore concepts of length by squirting water onto a hard surface.

music & movement

SOUNDS & SIGNS Run in the Sun

SED 3 ATTENTION & PERSISTENCE

Sing along to a song and make the signs for "run" and "sun."

art & drama

PAINTING Passport

CA 3 VISUAL ARTS

Explore stamping and making fingerprints in a passport.

LESSON 2

STORY PLAY Show the Animal

LLD 6 READING COMPREHENSION

Listen actively and hold up the Story Piece when a character is named during a story.

LIFE SKILLS Reaching Leaves

SCI 2 NATURAL & EARTH SCIENCE

Explore how giraffes and elephants eat by reaching for leaves on tall trees.

GROUP DANCE Dance to Orange

PD 1 GROSS MOTOR

Dance with a partner. Hold hands and move together to colored papers on different walls.

DRAMATIC PLAY Safari Hat

★ PD 4 PERSONAL CARE

Create a hat and wear it. Discuss what to wear on safari.



LESSON 3

BOOK DISCOVERY Migrate Across the Page

LLD 5 CONCEPTS OF PRINT

Develop book handling skills by following text from left to right.

NUMBER PLAY Hiding Animals

★ MR 6 CLASSIFICATION

Count the animals on the Counting Strips, then find the matching animal Story Pieces.

CREATIVE MOVEMENT Cheetah Fast

CA 2 DANCE & MOVEMENT

Dance like a cheetah very quickly, then slowly.

STICKER ART African Grasslands Scene

LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Put stickers of the big five animals on an African Grasslands scene.



LESSON 4

PICTURES & LETTERS Letter Path

★ LLD 3 PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Follow a path and practice making /s/ sounds.

SENSORY PLAY C Is for Car

LLD 4 ALPHABETIC KNOWLEDGE

Drive a car on the Letter C road and find objects that begin with the /c/ sound in the sand.

COORDINATION Resourceful Rhythm

CA 1 MUSIC

Listen to a song and pound out the rhythm on pots and pans.

COLLAGING Colorful Elephant

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Collage square tiles onto an elephant.

LESSON 5

ACTIVE LISTENING Animal Paths

LLD 3 PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Imitate the sounds heard in a read-aloud story.

SORTING & SHAPES Protect the Animals

★ MR 2 SPATIAL AWARENESS

Sort and assemble two-piece puzzle cards.

RHYTHM PATTERNS Oval Herd

CA 1 MUSIC

Dance and pick up ovals to put on a line.

COLORING Letter C Coloring

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Color items that begin with the letter C.

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OUR WEEK WITH

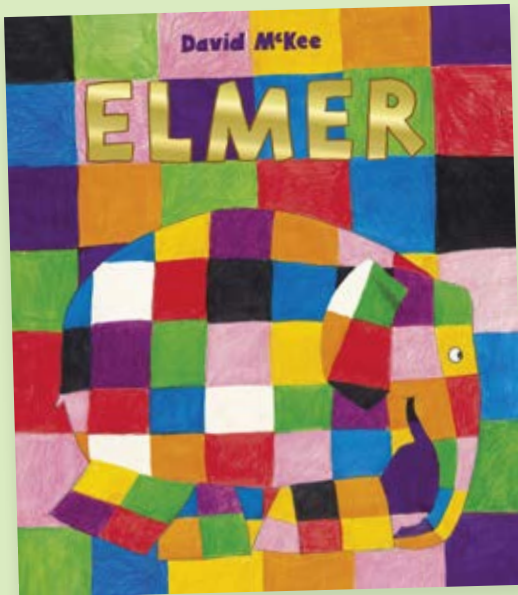
Safari

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TOGETHER

TIME

This week, let's read books about elephants. Find this one at your library or on YouTube:



Elmer
by David McKee

Hiding Animals

What?

In the story of the week at school, we looked for safari animals in books.

How?

Hide a stuffed animal and invite your child to hunt for it. When it is found, feed it some veggies and eat a snack together!

Why?

This activity supports logic and reasoning skills by reinforcing that the toy exists even if it can't be seen. When your child keeps looking elsewhere, they practice deductive reasoning and problem-solving.





Safari Calendar



language & literacy

LESSON 1

BOOK DISCOVERY

Look for Lion

LLD 5 CONCEPTS OF PRINT

Turn pages and look for the lion.

math & reasoning

SORTING & SHAPES

Safari Search & Sort

MR 6 CLASSIFICATION

Hide pompoms around the room, find them and sort them onto matching colored trees.

music & movement

SOUNDS & SIGNS

What Rhino?

LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Practice signing the words "what" and "rhino" when heard in the song.

art & drama

DRAMATIC PLAY

Lion Mask

★ CA 4 DRAMA

Create a lion mane from a paper plate and pretend to be a lion.

LESSON 2

PICTURES & LETTERS

Elephant Trunk

★ SCI 1 INVESTIGATION & INQUIRY

Squirt water on blocks with chalk letters and shapes printed on them.

LIFE SKILLS

Did You Know?

SCI 2 NATURAL & EARTH SCIENCE

Explore fun facts about African animals, then pretend to be elephants walking in a line.

GROUP DANCE

Monkey See, Monkey Do

SED 4 SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

Take turns being the movement leader during the song.

STICKER ART

Hippo Peekaboo

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Put stickers on a page, fold it up and pull down flaps to play peekaboo.

LESSON 3

ACTIVE LISTENING

Sticky Note Safari

LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Peek under a sticky note in a book to see the hidden pictures.

SENSORY PLAY

R Is for Rhino

★ LLD 4 ALPHABETIC KNOWLEDGE

Play with dough on a mat, form the letter R and cut pieces to make grass.

CREATIVE MOVEMENT

Safari Animal Dance

CA 1 MUSIC

Pretend to dance like different animals.

COLLAGING

Giraffe Collage

CA 3 VISUAL ARTS

Trace the child's foot and cut it out to make a giraffe head.



LESSON 4

STORY PLAY

Under the Leaves

LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Hide the Story Pieces one at a time under a pile of leaves. Tell a story about why that character may be hiding.

MEASURE WITH ME

Heavy as a Hippo

MR 4 MEASUREMENT

Explore the concepts of heavy and light by lifting milk jugs filled with varying volumes of water.

COORDINATION

Cats in Rain

PD 1 GROSS MOTOR

Do the Yoga pose during the song to improve balance, flexibility and strength.

PAINTING

Zebra Stripes

★ LLD 7 WRITING

Draw stripes with chalk to make a zebra.

LESSON 5

COMMUNICATION

Hide & Seek Rhino or Hippo

LLD 4 ALPHABETIC KNOWLEDGE

Ask "where" questions, play hide and seek with rhinos and hippos and explore the /r/ and /h/ sound.

NUMBER PLAY

Giraffe Spots Game

★ MR 1 NUMBER SENSE

Look at a Giraffe Card, count the spots and put the same number of spots on the poster.

RHYTHM PATTERNS

Open/Shut Them

LLD 1 LISTENING

Follow directions by moving with the words and music.

COLORING

Letter R Coloring

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Color the letter R and pictures that begin with the /r/ sound.

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OUR WEEK WITH

Sockfari

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TOGETHER

TIME

Hide 'n Seek Sock

What?

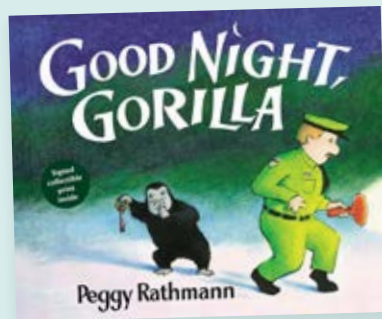
In the story of the week at school, we imagined socks were safari animals. Try making your own sock puppet this week.

How?

Gather wiggle eyes, yarn, felt and some old socks. Work together to hot glue different pieces onto the sock to make silly animals.

Why?

This activity supports creative thinking and imaginative play.



Good Night, Gorilla
by Peggy Rathmann





Sockfari Calendar

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toddler

LESSON 1

language & literacy

BOOK DISCOVERY

Sockfari

LLD 5 CONCEPTS OF PRINT

Explore the book and how to hold it right-side up. Use the pictures as clues to what is happening in the story.

math & reasoning

MEASURE WITH ME

African Color Patterns

MR 5 PATTERNS

Explore color patterns and create them with colored bottle caps.

music & movement

SOUNDS & SIGNS

Letter S Song

CA 2 DANCE & MOVEMENT

Listen for the /s/ sound and wiggle next to the Letter Card like slithery snakes.

art & drama

PAINTING

African Necklace

★ SS 1 CULTURE & COMMUNITY

Paint with a cotton swab and make designs on a Maasai necklace.



LESSON 2

COMMUNICATION

Sock Discovery

LLD 6 READING COMPREHENSION

Explore the animals from the story by finding them hiding in socks.

NUMBER PLAY

In My Sock

MR 1 NUMBER SENSE

Count the pompoms in a sock.

GROUP DANCE

Fast/Slow Parachute

LLD 1 LISTENING

Work together to raise and lower or shake a parachute in slow, then fast movements.

DRAMATIC PLAY

Play Hut

★ SS 3 GEOGRAPHY

Build and decorate a hut and Maasai village.

LESSON 3

ACTIVE LISTENING

Sock Animal

LLD 1 LISTENING

Listen to a read-aloud and practice making the signs for "animal" and "sock."

SENSORY PLAY

S Is for Snake

LLD 4 ALPHABETIC KNOWLEDGE

Play with dough on a mat and form the letter S and count the snakes.

RHYTHM PATTERNS

Finding Food

★ SED 2 SELF-REGULATION

Dance in personal space. Pause the music and run to another space.

STICKER ART

Sockfari Story Stickers

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Decorate a Story Scene with stickers.

LESSON 4

STORY PLAY

Our Sock Puppet

LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Make conversation between the Story Pieces and a sock puppet you create with the children.

SORTING & SHAPES

Sock Shape Toss

MR 3 SHAPES

Toss socks at Shape Targets on the wall.

CREATIVE MOVEMENT

Repeat the Beat

★ MR 5 PATTERNS

Explore rhythms through tapping and pausing to the beat.

COLLAGING

S Snake

CA 3 VISUAL ART

Collage tissue circles onto the letter S, like snake skin.

LESSON 5

PICTURES & LETTERS

Roll to Safety

★ LLD 4 ALPHABETIC KNOWLEDGE

Roll a ball toward the letter S or to a specific picture when prompted.

LIFE SKILLS

Feed the Tiger

PD 4 PERSONAL CARE

Talk about tigers and being hungry while feeding a tiger with a spoon.

COORDINATION

Oval Path

PD 1 GROSS MOTOR

Dance and improve balance by walking on a masking tape path. Stomp on the ovals as the song plays

COLORING

Letter S Coloring

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Trace over the letter S and explore words that begin with the /s/ sound.