

Books about Animals

suggestions from the Family Reading Partnership

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Zoo Books

My Visit to the Zoo, by Alikei

Dear Zoo, by Rod Campbell

Inside a Zoo in the City, by Alyssa Capucilli

A cumulative rhyme featuring rebuses, in which a parrot, a tiger, a lion, a peacock, and other inhabitants of a city zoo wake up and startle each other.

One, Two Three to the Zoo, by Eric Carle

Zoo-Looking, by Mem Fox

Put Me in the Zoo, by Robert Lopshire

A large, spotted animal discovers he really belongs in a circus, not a zoo.

The Zoo Book, by Jan Pfloug

Goodnight Gorilla, by Peggy Rathman

An unobservant zookeeper is followed home by all the animals he thinks he has left behind in the zoo.

And Tango Makes Three, by Justin Richardson

At New York City's Central Park Zoo, two male penguins fall in love and start a family by taking turns sitting on an abandoned egg until it hatches

Wild About Books, by Judy Sierra

A librarian named Mavis McGrew introduces the animals in the zoo to the joy of reading when she drives her bookmobile to the zoo by mistake

Zoo Animals, by Brian Wildsmith

Animal Sounds

Book, Book, Book! By Deborah Bruss

When the children go back to school, the animals on the farm are bored, so they go into the library in town trying to find something to do.

The Giraffe Who Cock-A-Doodle-Doed, by Keith Faulkner

One morning all the animals in the jungle wake to find that they have the wrong voices, and the giraffe, who has never had a voice before is delighted when he stretches his neck and makes a wonderful sound.

Roar and More, by Karla Kuskin

Rhyming text presents the behavior and noises of animals such as the lion, snake, and kangaroo.

Moo Who? By Margie Palatini

After being hit on the head, Hilda the singing cow forgets what sound she should make, so she imitates different animals until she gets her "moo" back.

Mung-Mung, by Linda Sue Park and Diane Bigda

A foldout book of Animal Sounds (in many languages)

Gobble, Growl, Grunt: a book of animal sounds, by Peter Spier
Illustrations of animals accompanied by the sounds they make.

Jungle Animals

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears, by Verna Aardema
Reveals the meaning of the mosquitoes buzz.

The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rainforest, by Lynne Cherry
The many different animals that live in a great kapok tree in the Brazilian rainforest try to convince a man with an ax of the importance of not cutting down their home.

Tall, by Jez Alborough
Illustrations and just a few words depict how various jungle animals help a very little monkey to feel that he is tall.

Crocodile Beat, by Gail Jorgensen
Lying in wait in the water, Crocodile hears a multitude of animal sounds and plans on having a tasty dinner, but he is bested by Lion.

Simply Delicious, by Margaret Mahy
A resourceful father engages in all kinds of acrobatic moves to keep an assortment of jungle creatures from getting the double-dip-chocolate-chip-and-cherry ice cream cone he is taking home to his son.

Wild Pets

The Tarantula in my Purse, by Jean Craighead George
A collection of autobiographical stories about raising a houseful of children and wild pets including crows, skunks, and raccoons.

Can I Keep Him? by Steven Kellogg
Mother objects to every pet Arnold asks to keep except one—a person.

I Took My Frog to the Library, by Eric A. Kimmel
A young girl brings her pets to the library—with predictably disastrous results.

I Wanna Iguana, by Karen Kaufman Orloff
Alex and his mother write notes back and forth in which Alex tries to persuade her to let him have a baby iguana for a pet.

An Octopus Followed Me Home, by Dan Yaccarino
When a girl brings home an octopus and wants to keep him as a pet, her daddy reminds her of the crocodile, seals, and other inappropriate animals she has already brought into the house to create chaos.

Alphabet Animals

Animalia, by Graeme Base

African Animals ABC, by Phiippa-Alys Broune

Click, Clack, Quackety-Quack: An Alphabetical Adventure by Doreen Cronin
An assortment of animals gathers for a picnic.

Ape in a Cape, by Fritz Eichenberg
An assortment of animals introduce the letters of the alphabet.

Animal Alphabet, by Bert Kitchen
The reader is invited to guess the identity of twenty-six unusual animals illustrating the letter of the alphabet.

The Alphabeast Book, by Dorothy Schmiderer

Each letter of the alphabet is represented by a drawing of an object or animal.

Brian Wildsmith's ABC

Each letter of the alphabet is represented by a drawing of an object or animal.

Wild Birds

Stellaluna, by Janell Cannon (A bat with strong bird connections.)

After she falls headfirst into a bird's nest, a baby bat is raised like a bird until she is reunited with her mother

The Sea, The Storm, and the Mangrove Tangle, by Lynne Cherry

A seed from a mangrove tree floats on the sea until it comes to rest on the shore of a faraway lagoon where, over time, it becomes a mangrove island that shelters many birds and animals, even during a hurricane.

Feathers for Lunch, by Lois Ehlert

A cat prowls the neighborhood and sees many birds, but because of the bell on his collar, has only feathers for lunch.

Bird Talk, by Ann Jonas

Portrays a variety of birds and their calls, using the "memory phrases" that birdwatchers have devised to help them hear and remember birdsongs.

Franny B. Kranny There's a Bird in Your Hair, by Harriet Goldhor Lerner (Just for Fun) Franny B. Kranny refuses to cut her wild hair, despite her family's insistence, and wears a bird in her hair to a family reunion.

The Bird House, by Cynthia Rylant

An orphan girl finds an unexpected home when she stops to admire the mystery and magic of the birds flocking around an old woman's house.

More or Less True Animal Tales

Field trips: bug hunting, animal tracking, bird-watching, shore walking with Jim Arnosky.

Explains to kids how to find and identify bugs, animals, birds, and shore-land objects, providing three hundred illustrations including 175 identification silhouettes.

Flute's Journey: the Life of a Wood Thrush, by Lynne Cherry

A young wood thrush makes his first migration from his nesting ground in a forest preserve in Maryland to his winter home in Costa Rica and back again.

Mammabilia: Poems and Paintings, by Douglas Florian

A collection of humorous poems about mammals such as the tiger, gorilla, and rhebok.

Actual Size, by Steve Jenkins

Discusses and gives examples of the size and weight of various animals and parts of animals.

Koko's Kitten by Dr. Francine Patterson

A gorilla at the San Francisco Zoo adapts a kitten as a pet and playmate.

Wild Babies, by Seymour Simon

Describes the various parenting techniques of different types of wild animals and provides a close look at the behavior and characteristics of their offspring.

When Animals Misbehave

Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing, by Judi Barrett

Pictures of animals wearing clothes show why this would be a ridiculous custom for them to adopt

Olivia, by Ian Falconer

Whether at home getting ready for the day, enjoying the beach, or at bedtime, Olivia is a feisty pig who has too much energy for her own good.

Bad Boys, by Margie Palatini

Two hungry wolves in disguise attempt to raid a sheep farm.

Meet Wild Boars, by Meg Rosoff

It is very hard to be friends with wild boars because they are dirty and smelly, bad-tempered, and rude.

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! by Mo Willems

A strong-willed pigeon tries to convince the reader to let him drive the bus!

My Favorite Wild Children

Wild Wild Sunflower Child Anna, by Nancy White Carlstrom

Spending a day outdoors, Anna revels in the joys of sun, sky, grass, flowers, berries, frogs, ants, and beetles.

Owen and Mzee, by Isabella Hatkoff.

The true story of a remarkable friendship This book has been adapted from the original e-book, Owen and Mzee, which was first launched on the WNBC New York Five O'Clock News as part of the "Tribeca Film Festival."

Harriet You'll Drive Me Wild, by Mem Fox

When a young girl has a series of mishaps at home one day, her mother tries not to lose her temper—and does not quite succeed

Where the Wild Things Are, by Maurice Sendak

A naughty little boy, sent to bed without his supper, sails to the land of the wild things where he becomes their king.

No, David!, by David Shannon

A young boy is depicted doing a variety of naughty things for which he is repeatedly admonished, but finally he gets a hug.

If I Were a Lion, by Sarah Weeks

A young girl imagines how wild she could be if she were an animal.

Mama, by Jeanette Winter

A true story in which a baby hippo loses his mama during the tsunami, but finds a new home and a new mama

More:

Giraffes Can't Dance, by Giles Andreae

A Snake is Totally Tail, by Judi Barrett

Animalia, by Barbara Berger

Annie and the Wild Animals, by Jan Brett

Fritz and the Beautiful Horses, by Jan Brett

Happy Birthday, Dear Duck, by Eve Bunting

If You're Happy and You Know It, by Jane Cabrera

Llama, llama, red pajama, by Anna Dewdney

Koala Lou, by Mem Fox

The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses, by Paul Goble

Wolves, by Emily Gravett

Is Your Mama A Llama? by Deborah Guarino
The Seals on the Bus, by Lenny Hort
I Love My Mama, by Peter Kavanagh (about a mother and baby elephant)
Edward The Emu, by Sheena Knowles
Leo The Late Bloomer, by Robert Kraus
Sam and the Tigers, by Julius Lester/Jerry Pinckney
Frederick, by Leo Lioni
Eyes of the Grey Wolf, by Jonathon London
Wild Animals, A Very First Picture Book, by Lorenz Books
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr.
Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear? by Bill Martin, Jr.
Elephants Calling, by Katie Payne
Noah's Ark, by Jerry Pinkney
The Little Red Hen, by Jerry Pinkney
The Trouble With Elephants, by Chris Riddell
The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs! as told to Jon Scieszka
Animal Café, by John Stadler
The Little Red hen (Makes a Pizza) retold by Philemon Sturges
Animals Black and White, by Phyllis Limbacher Tildes
Jumanji, by Chris Van Allsburg
Forest Bright, Forest Night, by Jennifer Ward
Old Turtle, by Douglas Wood
Alligator Cookies, by James Young

Check www.familyreading.org "Great Ideas" for a list of Ithaca, NY area children's book authors, many of who have written books about animals.

Chapter books:

Mr. Popper's Penguins, by Richard and Florence Atwater
Three Terrible Trins, by Dick King-Smith
The Cricket in Times Square by George Selden and Garth Williams
Charlotte's Web, by E. B. White

For other animal books for older children, check out Boston Public Library's "Talk to the Animals": <http://www.bpl.org/kids/booklists/animals.htm>