

# Books about Animals

suggestions from the Family Reading Partnership

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## Zoo Books

**My Visit to the Zoo**, by Alike

**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](http://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>