

Poems and Songs
for Young Children
about



ANIMALS!



compiled by Family Reading Partnership
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WALKING THROUGH THE JUNGLE

Walking through the jungle,
What did I see?
A big lion roaring
At me, me, me.

Walking through the jungle,
What did I see?
A baby monkey laughing
At me, me, me.

Walking through the jungle,
What did I see?
A slippery snake hissing
At me, me, me.

TAILS by Rowena Bennet

The kangaroo has a heavy tail
She sits on for a chair.
There's scarcely any tail at all
Upon the polar bear.
But the monkey has the nicest tail
Of any living thing,
For he can hook it to a branch
And use it as a swing.

MONKEY SWING (Circle game)

Little monkeys swing in a tree
All hold hands and swing with me.
Swing up high and swing down low,
Swing in the tree, now don't let go.
Swing, swing, swing, like I do
Swing like monkeys in the zoo!

TRAVEL PLANS by Bobbie Katz

If I could go anywhere,
here's what I'd do.
I'd pop in the pouch of a kind
kangaroo.
I'd travel around for as long
as I pleased,
And learn to say "thank you"
in Kangarooese.

THE KANGAROO by Elizabeth Coatsworth

It is a curious thing that you
Don't wish to be a kangaroo,
To hop, hop, hop and never stop
The whole day long and the whole night too.



THE MONKEYS AT THE ZOO

(tune: The Farmer in the Dell)

The monkeys at the zoo,
The monkeys at the zoo,
Hi-ho they laugh and play,
The monkeys at the zoo

The monkeys run and hide,
The monkeys run and hide,
They like to play,
Then run away.
The monkeys at the zoo!

GIRAFFES

by Mary Ann Hoberman

Giraffes

I like them.

Ask me why.

Because they hold their heads up high.

Because their necks stretch to the sky.

Because they're quiet, calm, and shy.

Because they run so fast they fly,

Because their eyes are velvet brown.

Because their coats are spotted tan.

Because they eat the tops of trees.

Because their legs have knobby knees.

Because

Because

Because. That's why

I like giraffes.

THREE LITTLE PENGUINS (can be acted out)

Three little penguins dressed in white and black.
They waddle, waddle forward, and they waddle, waddle back.
They waddle to the left and they waddle to the right.
They stand on the ice and they look very nice,
As they waddle along on their little flat feet.

YAK by Jack Prelutsky

Yickity-yackity, yickity-yak.
The yak has a scriffily, scraffily back.
Some yaks are brown yaks and some are black.
Yickity-yackity, yickity-yak.

AN ELEPHANT

An elephant goes like this and that.
He's terribly big, and he's terribly fat.
He has no fingers, and he has no toes,
But goodness gracious what a nose!

