



Before Reading the Book

Look at the cover together. What information can you get from the cover?

- What is the title of the book?
- Look at the illustration on the cover. What do you think this book will be about?
- What sound does a rooster make?

While Reading the Book

Help children start to understand the reading process by running your finger under the words as you read them. This shows children that we read books left to right. Read the text with expression and ask questions as you read. You may want to ask the questions below before reading the text on each page:

- What animal is on this page?
- What sound does that animal make?

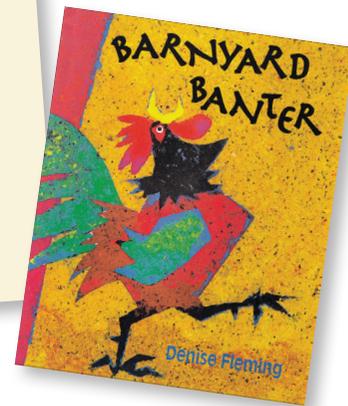
After Reading the Book

You can help a child build reading comprehension by going back through the book together. Look at the illustrations on each page and ask the child to tell you what is happening. You can also ask questions to relate the book to your child's life:

- What is your favorite kind of animal?
- What sound do they make?
- Is that animal in this book?

Continue the fun by doing one of the Literacy, Science, Engineering, Math, Creative Arts, Games and Movement, or Rhymes and Songs extension activities in this guide.

Follow Goose as he chases a butterfly through the farm. This very colorful story is filled with rhyming text, fun animal sounds, and the opportunity to look for Goose on every page.



“The Tractor on the Farm”

Everyone loves “The Wheels on the Bus.” Adapt the song to a barnyard theme.

The tractor on the farm goes round and round
Round and round, round and round
The tractor on the farm goes round and round
All around the farm

Continue with the animals found in “Barnyard Banter:”

The cow on the farm goes moo, moo, moo ...
The rooster on the farm goes cock-a-doodle-doo ...

Build a Farm

Blocks, whether they be wooden or soft, are a very versatile toy. You can use them to create almost anything. Building with blocks is an early engineering skill.

MATERIALS:

- A large collection of blocks

DIRECTIONS:

- Use the blocks to build something you see on a farm (barn, pigsty, horse stall, etc.).
- With younger children, you may want to model how to build with blocks. Talk through the process: “I am building a wall for my barn,” “This block will make a nice roof,” etc.

QUESTION:

- Tell me about what you built.

EXTENSION:

- Do you have any stuffed animals from the farm? Can you build a tower with blocks that is as tall as one of the animals?





Find the Animals

You can make this game as hard or as easy as you want. For younger children, you may choose to “hide” all of the animals in plain sight. For older children, you might hide them throughout the house.

MATERIALS:

- A variety of stuffed animals

DIRECTIONS:

- Hide the stuffed animals when the child is out of the room.
- Ask the child to find the animals.
- Make the correct sound as each animal is found.
- For kids that can count, tell them how many animals are hidden before they start looking.

EXTENSION:

- If you’ve hidden animals that correspond to the ones in “Barnyard Banter,” turn to the correct page as each animal is found.



In and Around the Barn

Learning about directional terms such as up and down are part of spatial learning. They are early math concepts for young children.

MATERIALS:

- Toy barn or something you can pretend is a barn (such as a box)
- Toy farm animal

DIRECTIONS:

- Either direct the child or assist the child in putting the animal on top of the barn, under the barn, inside the barn, behind the barn, above the barn, in front of the barn, near the barn, and far away from the barn.
- Be sure to use directional terms as you are playing the game.

EXTENSION:

- If you have a large enough “barn,” ask the child to play the game with their own body. Can they sit in the barn? Can they stand behind the barn? Can they stand in front of the barn? Can they walk around the barn?
- Create a farm obstacle course for children to navigate. Possible obstacles include:
 - Go under the fence (table or broom handle balanced on chairs)
 - Go around the pond (a piece of blue paper or felt on the ground)
 - Go inside the barn (large box)
 - Stay far away from the kicking donkey (stuffed donkey)
 - Walk over the crickets (toy crickets or photographs of crickets)