



Toddler Home Learning Kit - Animal

Here's What You Get!

- 1 Animal Cape
- 1 Instrument
- 1 Mirror
- 1 Box of 16 Crayons
- 1 Blank Notebook
- 1 Book

Dear Families,

This kit of hands-on learning tools is a great way to support your child as you work with them at home. The featured materials included in the kit are meaningful and engaging – perfect for curious minds! The materials and usage suggestions range in complexity so that your child can review and practice skills already learned, as well as develop and master new skills. Mastering these important skills will make the transition to the next level more successful. As you work with your child, watch their confidence and independence grow!

Suggested Activities:

Animal Cape

- **Role play!** Have your child role play how this animal may move and make noise while wearing the cape.
- **Parts!** Take some time to explain the different parts of this animal to your child. This is also a great time to explain how the animal uses their parts to help them survive.

- **Story time!** Look through books that you may have at home or visit your local library to find fiction (made up) and nonfiction (real life) stories about the animal.
- **Habitat!** Depending on the animal, take time to explore the habitat the animal lives in. Explore together what helps the animal stay protected (their home) and where they might find other necessities such as food and water.
- **Photo fun!** Have your child dress up in their cape and take their photo. Send this photo digitally or make a card for special occasions. Example: (lion) To: Grandma, I hope you have a roaring good birthday!

Instrument

- **Wiggle time!** Have your child stand in front of you. Each time you shake the instrument, have your child wiggle. When you stop, they stop. Do this several times and for different lengths of time.
- **Patterns!** Have your child hold the instrument in one hand. With that hand they can shake, and with the other hand they can tap a table or their leg. Have them create different patterns such as AB, ABB, AAB, etc. (A = bell and B = tap) Example: bell, bell, tap, bell, bell, tap.
- **Shake, shake!** Help your child learn which hand is their left and which is their right. While holding the instrument in one hand, have them shake, then have them switch hands. Example: shake left, shake right, and so on.
- **Listen and join in!** Have your child listen to music and have them play their instrument at the same time!

Toddler Home Learning Kit - Animal (continued)

- **Family band!** Using the instrument provided, as well as other items from around your house that make noise, create a family band and enjoy making music together, singing songs, and collaborating!

Mirror

- **Funny faces!** Have your child explore all the ways their face moves in the mirror. You can also instruct your child to open their mouth wide, close one eye, etc.
- **Parts!** While looking in the mirror, have your child point to the parts of their face. Then, ask them questions like, "How many eyes do you have?"
- **Senses!** Have your child look in the mirror and point to the parts of their face that do certain things. Ask them questions like, "What do you smell with?" "What do you taste with?" "What do you hear with?"
- **Emotions!** Ask your child to look in the mirror and make emotional faces such as happy, sad, scared, excited, etc.
- **Teeth!** Exploring teeth can be a fun task. Have your child use the mirror to look at their teeth after eating something like a cupcake that makes their teeth dirty. Then, have your child brush their teeth and check them in the mirror again. They will see the importance of brushing or cleaning their teeth.

Crayons

- **Draw pictures!** (Be an illustrator) Let your child feel free to draw anything that their heart desires! After the picture is finished, ask your child to tell you what they drew. If you wish, you can write what they say on the back of the picture. Later you can ask them to explain the picture to see if their story changes or stays the same!

- **Practice early writing lines!** Have your child practice drawing early writing lines such as straight lines, curves, and zigzags. This will help to build their writing skills for when they use a pencil.
- **Guided drawing!** Have your child draw something you wish in a specific color. Example: Draw a brown cat next to a green bush. This will not only help your child learn positional words (next to, on top of, below, etc.), but it will encourage them to follow directions.
- **Color recognition!** Crayons are the perfect tool to learn about colors. As your child selects a crayon to use, ask them what color it is. You can also hold the crayons up to use as color flash cards.
- **Rainbow write!** Whether your child is practicing writing letters, numbers, shapes, or lines, have them trace over it in several different colors. Not only will this help with their writing and drawing practice, but they will also create rainbow art!

Blank Notebook

- **Create a timeline!** Each time your child writes or draws in this notebook, mark the date in the corner of the page. Have your child write or draw in page order. At the end, you and your child will have a cherished timeline of how much their writing and drawing skills grew!
- **Create a shapes journal!** On each page, draw a different shape. Then, have your child draw the shape, or add to the shape to create a picture. Example: You draw a square. Your child adds a triangle to the top to create a house.

Toddler Home Learning Kit - Animal (continued)

- **Create a notebook of short stories!** Have your child tell a story as you write it down on the bottom half of the page. Next, read the story back to your child. Finally, have them illustrate the story.
 - **Create collage pages!** Have your child collect pictures out of old magazines and glue them on a page. Sort each collage page according to the main color of the objects or the type of objects in the pictures. You can even use real pictures of relatives or friends that your child doesn't see often so that they can remember those people.
 - **Create a ME journal!** Have your child make a journal all about them. At the top of the pages, write titles such as: This is ME! My Favorite Animals! My Favorite Foods! Have your child color or add pictures. If they draw pictures, make sure that you label them for future reference.
- **Discuss what was read!** Just reading a book is good, but discussing the story is golden. Ask your child simple questions to encourage their comprehension or understanding of what was read, such as, "What happened?" or "Why did that happen?" Reading comprehension is an important skill that will be focused on throughout all grade levels.
 - **Re-read!** After children hear a story more than once, they begin to know the story by heart. After reading a story to your child a couple of times, have your child discuss what will happen next. Eventually, your child will be able to tell you the story as they flip through the pages.

Book

- **Enjoy a book discussion!** Talk with your child about books. Explain to them who an author is (the person who writes the words) and who an illustrator is (the person who draws the pictures). Explain to your child what the cover of the book is, and practice holding the book right-side up. Also, explain to them that books are read one page at a time, and from front to back.
- **Take a picture walk!** Before reading the book, discuss the pictures. Pictures are great clues to what the words might be on the page. Discuss what is happening in the pictures, as well as what could happen later in the story.
- **Read aloud!** When children hear adults read, it sets the stage not only for what reading is, but how it sounds. Whenever possible, read in the voice of the character. This makes the story more engaging.