



Living Things

What young child is not fascinated by the natural world around her? Exploring and observing the living things around your house and outdoor areas are very exciting to a child. Check out this month's *ParentTips* to learn more ways to teach your child about living things.

INFANT:

- Visit a pet store. Look at the different animals. Talk about what you see. "The fish are swimming in the water." "The birds say tweet, tweet." "The dogs are getting a hair cut!"
- When you read to your infant every day, use character voices and movements to act out the story. For instance, make a cow's "moo" or a cat's "meow."
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TODDLER:

- Take your child on a trip to the zoo and talk about the different animals you see and the different kinds of places in which they live by saying, "Look there is a bird; the bird is in a tree." Or, "I see a horse in a stable and a polar bear in water."
- Play a guessing game with your child. Act out the movements of an animal and have your child guess the animal. For example, pretend to be a cat and "meow." Reverse the game and have your child act out the animal so you can guess what animal she is pretending to be.

PRESCHOOLERS:

- Take a walk outside with your child. Ask your child what living things she sees. Point out ants, butterflies, birds, cats, and dogs. Ask your child how many legs do cats and dogs have. Ask if he thinks ants, butterflies and birds have legs. Talk about how different living things move.
- Give your child old magazines and ask her to find and cut out pictures of animals. Help her glue or paste the pictures on a large sheet of paper. Then ask your child to name the animals. Write each name under (or near) the picture. Make the sound of the animal and then ask your child to make the sound of the animal and to tell you something about the animal (Where does it live? What does it eat?).

Book Suggestions:

What Does Violet See: Birds and Nests? Julie Aigner-Clark. Baby Einstein, 2002
Ocean Babies. Deborah Lee Rose. National Geographic, 2005.