



## A Few of My Favorite Animals

AGE:

Pre-K

MATERIALS:

**A few sheets of white paper, a set of crayons or markers, a stapler, and a yellow highlighter.**

PROCEDURE:

### 1. Invite your child to make a book about animals

Place the supplies on a table. Then, sit down and invite your child to join you to make a book. Give your child a sheet of paper and ask him/her to draw a picture of his/her favorite animal. Say, "Don't tell me which animal you are drawing! Try to write the name of the animal by the picture and surprise me." Give him/her time to draw and color the picture. Resist the urge to step in and "correct" his/her printing, this will only make him/her feel unsure about his/her abilities and less interested in just "writing." The more your child is able to "practice" writing in a fun way, the more he/she will enjoy it! When you support your child's early attempts, it helps him/her feel confident and become eager to learn more.

### 2. Talk about the picture and the words

After he/she finishes, ask him/her to point to the word he/she wrote and "read" it to you. Watch to see if he/she tries to print some letters and looks at or points to the printed letters and tries to read. Ask, "What else do you know about this animal?" Listen to your child answer the question and then say, "That sounds important to remember! What can I do to help remember?" If your child suggests that you write the words, use the yellow highlighter to print the words at the bottom of the page. Ask, "What is difference between the words and the picture?" Listen to your child's answer.

### 3. Extend the activity when your child is ready

Ask him/her to trace over the yellow printed letters. If he/she is still interested, ask him/her to draw more animals on other sheets of paper and repeat the procedure. If not, do continue the activity again on another day to give your child a chance to draw more pictures. Arrange collected pages together, add a sheet of construction paper to the front and back to make a cover, and staple the left side to make a book.

WHAT THEY LEARN:

**Your child is learning that letters make words, and that the words tell the message in print along with the pictures.**