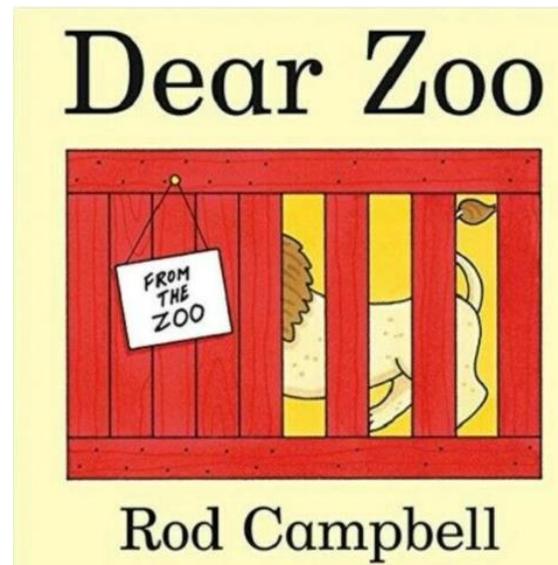


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Dear Zoo, by Rod Campbell, is a great book to explore different animals with your child.

Don't worry if you don't have a copy of this book – you can listen to it via the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=102&v=rudDGRQ9QGA&feature=emb_logo



Transition

Activity 1 – Story play

- a) Talk about the different animals in the story and discuss the reasons for sending the animals back – heavy, fragile, tall, dangerous, fierce, grumpy, ‘with care’, scary, naughty, jumpy and perfect.
- b) To retell the story, use masks, toys or puppets. Can your child play the different animals from the story?
- c) You could gather different kinds of containers and animal toys from around your home. Can your child retell the story using their own toys or make up their own story?

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Activity 2 – Getting crafty

- a) If you have playdough at home, encourage your child to make one of the animals. Which one will they choose? Is your child's animal tall or short? Does it have eyes? Has their animal got a tail or legs?
- b) Ask your child to choose their favourite animal from the story and make a mask. They could use cereal boxes for the cardboard. Encourage them to remember the two eyes, the nose and the mouth. Does their animal need ears or whiskers? They could make masks for the whole zoo.



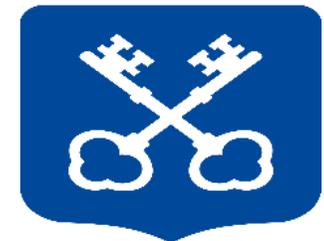
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Activity 3 – Thinking about maths

a) In the story, we meet animals that are tall and animals that are heavy. Can your child find some items in your house that are tall and heavy? They could look at their toys and line them up from shortest to tallest or lightest to heaviest.

b) Ask your child to take a closer look at the animals in the story. Can they sort them? Perhaps they will sort them into two groups such as animals with 4 legs and animals that don't have 4 legs. Maybe they will sort them into colours.

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Activity 4 – Mark making

a) With containers around the house, ask your child to place animal toys inside them and, with your child, label them. If there is a toy hedgehog in one, you could label it 'prickly'. Your child could attempt to copy this word under your model.

b) Make a flap book. Your child can make their own flap book to show different animals arriving from the zoo and needing to be returned. A parrot might be too noisy, a worm too wriggly.

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Activity 5 – Getting outside

a) Ask your child to imagine they kept one of the animals from the story. Can they make a den for it? Use sheets, towels, blankets, pegs and chairs – whatever you have available. Could it be a big den for the giraffe or a small one for a mouse?

b) Explore how you can move like the animals in the story. Can your child stomp like an elephant or fly like a parrot? How might the other animals move?

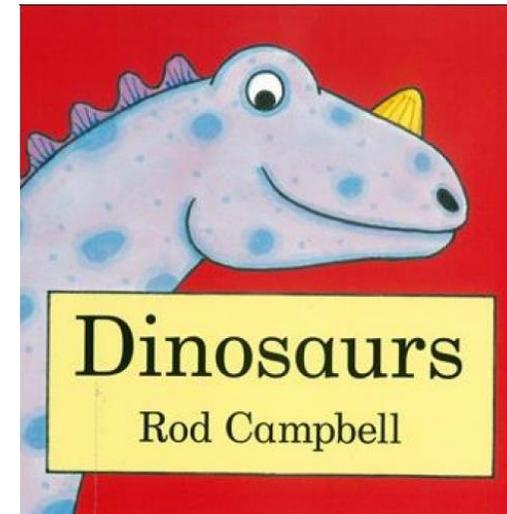
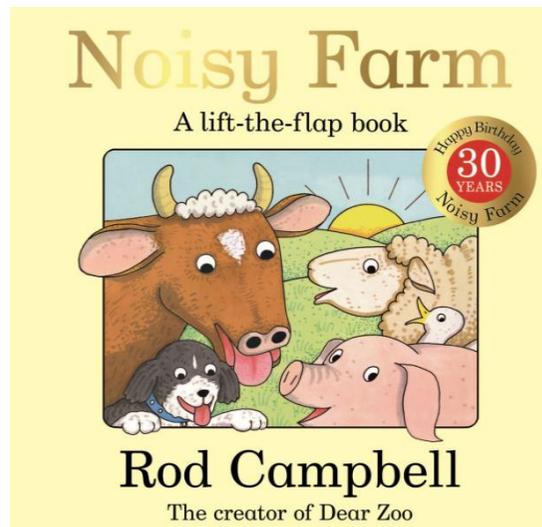
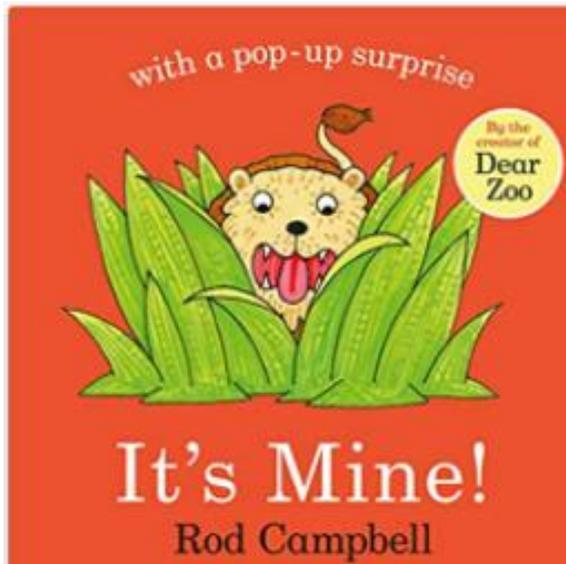
c) If you get the chance to visit a zoo, you could keep a look out for the animals in the story. Can you remember how they were described? You could even enjoy a virtual zoo day: <https://www.chesterzoo.org/virtual-zoo-2/>

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Some other stories by Rod Campbell



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