

Is Your Mama a Llama

By Deborah Guarino

A baby llama finds out what kind of mama his animal friends have. Each page uses clues and rhyming words to make an animal guessing game for readers.

BEFORE READING:

- Show the children the front of the book. Ask them to guess what the book is about.
- Ask them what is on the front cover, and if they have ever seen one before.
- Have them tell you about the other animals they see on the cover.

WHILE READING:

- Stop at any time if there is something you or the children would like to talk about.
- Ask them questions so that they can connect what is happening in the book to things they already know about. Try some of these ideas:
 - ⇒What does your mama look like?
 - ⇒What kinds of foods do you like to eat?
 - ⇒How do you go to bed each night?

AFTER READING:

Spend some time talking about the story. Ask the children things like:

- ⇒How many different animals did you see in the book?
- ⇒What does a llama look like?
- ⇒Which animal likes to eat grass? Which animal hangs by his feet?

Read this book several times to the children. Hearing the same story again and again helps them learn new words and understand the ideas they hear better. Each day, pick a different activity to do with the children after reading “Is Your Mama a Llama”.

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MATH AND SCIENCE

Pick a page of the book and count all of the animals that are the same in the picture. Help the children to count the different members of the animal family as well. Ask them to tell you which family is bigger, and which family is smaller.

READING READINESS

Let the children guess what animal is being described in the book. Before you turn the page to show the animal, ask the children what they think it is.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Play “Simon Says” as you move like the different animals in the story. Take turns calling out the animal to move like. Fly like bats, flap your wings like a swan, moo like cows, clap your hands like seals, and hop like kangaroos. Teach the children to hear “Simon Says” before they hear what animal to move like or they will be “Simon”.

MOTOR SKILLS

Make your own lacing cards. Take an empty cereal box and tear it apart so that it lies flat. Using the inside part of the box, draw animals and cut them out. Punch holes along the outer edges of the animals. Using an old shoelace or yarn (tape the end to make it easier to thread

through the holes), teach the children how to lace through the holes.

THINKING SKILLS

Ask the children to tell you how they get ready for bed each night. Then, ask them to choose an animal from the book, and describe how they think that animal gets ready for bed. Ask them to tell you what is the same and what is different about the ways they and the animal get ready for bed each night.

ART

Have the children color a picture of their family. Label each of the family members as they point them out to you.

PRETEND PLAY

Allow the children to pretend to be the mama while you pretend to be the child. Allow them to dress up like you, wearing some adult clothes and shoes. Pretend to go grocery shopping together, run errands, pretend to cook a meal, read you a story or tuck you into bed.

