



Unit 3: Awesome Animals

Week 2: How Many Syllables?



LENGTH OF AT-HOME ACTIVITY: 10 to 15 minutes

YOU'LL NEED: The book *Duck On A Bike* by David Shannon and a pencil or crayon

ACTIVITY STEPS:

TALK about *Duck On A Bike*, reminding your preschooler you'll be reading it again today. Start by talking about the role of the author and the illustrator of a book! For example, explain that David Shannon is the author AND illustrator of *Duck On A Bike*. What does an author do? What does an illustrator do?

ASK QUESTIONS. Ask and wait 3-5 seconds for an answer. Example questions:

What do you think this book is going to be about?

Have you ever seen a duck on a bike?

Have you ever ridden a bike? What was it like?

SING "Little Bo Peep" with your preschooler, and define any words in the rhyme that are new to your child!

Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep, and doesn't know where to find them!

Leave them alone and they'll come home, wagging their tails behind them.

READ *Duck On A Bike* together! See if your preschooler can read some of the words on the pages on his or her own, such as "on," "the," "at," and "it." Be sure to congratulate your preschooler for doing a great job reading.

LEARN about syllables! Explain that they are simply ways to divide words into sounds. Choose a word and clap the number of syllables together. Try "duck," "waddle," and "bicycle."

CHOOSE a few words and talk about the beginning sounds they make. Ask your preschooler if they begin with the same sounds. For example:

Does "duck" have the same first sound as "bike" or "dog"?

CONNECT what your preschooler knows about animals to *Duck on a Bike*. What other stories have you read about animals? What were the animals doing in those stories? How are the stories similar or different to this story?

DISCUSS the difference between real and pretend. Is *Duck on a Bike* about a real duck? Can ducks really ride bikes?

FOLLOW UP ACTIVITY: Find some time to ride bikes with your preschooler. If you don't have bikes, go for a walk! Have fun, and remember you are helping your preschooler learn healthy exercise habits!

WRITING EXTENSION: On the back of this page, help your preschooler write "[Name] On A Bike" and illustrate the picture of him or herself. Who would your preschooler pass when riding a bike? What would he or she do? Where would he or she go?