

Unit 3: Awesome Animals
Week 1: Duck on a Bike

Objective:

To read *Duck on a Bike* with your preschooler, talk about animal sounds, and savor your quality time with your preschooler.

Materials:

A copy of *Duck on a Bike* by David Shannon

Week 1 Lesson Steps:

1. Start by telling your preschooler that you will be reading a new book today, *Duck on a Bike*. Talk with your preschooler about his or her predictions for the books.

Some 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?

Introduction/IceBreaker

Sing “Old McDonald Had A Farm” with your preschooler to help him or her practice animal sounds before you begin reading *Duck on a Bike*. You can focus on the animals that Duck meets and use the sounds they make in the story.

2. Read *Duck on a Bike* with your preschooler. Spend some time talking about the different animals that Duck encounters.

Fun and Easy Reading Tips

- Pick things to count in the book with your preschooler. You can count the different animals that Duck passes, the number of children that ride their bikes, the number of words on a page—anything! Counting with your preschooler helps him or her practice basic math skills.
- Talk about riding bikes and bike safety with your preschooler. When you ride your bike you should always wear a helmet and watch where you’re going. See if you can figure out how Duck is being unsafe in the story.
- Define new words for your preschooler. By introducing him or her to new vocabulary, you are growing his or her language skills.
- Point to the words as you read them to your preschooler. By drawing attention to the words on the page, you are helping your preschooler learn about letters and sounds.
- Go on a letter search with your preschooler. Pick a page and help him or her find all of the letter “A” or “B” or whatever letter your preschooler would like to find.
- Have you ever seen these animals up close? Talk with your preschooler about what he or she knows about animals.
 - Have you ever seen some of these animals before? Where did you see them?

- What things do you know about animals? Do you know what they eat? Do you know where they live?

Conclusion:

Today you read *Duck on a Bike* with your preschooler and talked about awesome animals. By spending quality time with your preschooler, you are helping him or her get ready for kindergarten.

Follow-Up Activity:

Brainstorm other silly things that animals don't do. For example, cats don't wear socks and birds don't play hopscotch.

Writing Extension:

Help your preschooler write and illustrate a few sentences about one of the other animals on a bike.

Early Developmental Standards Taught in Week 1:

- With modeling and support, ask and answer questions about text read aloud.
- With guidance and support understand that words are made of alphabet letters which have individual names and are written in a specific sequence in order to create words that can be read.
- With modeling and support, use a combination of drawing, dictating, and emergent writing to tell a real or imagined story indicating some order of the events.
- Engage in extended conversation, striving for five verbal exchanges between adult and child.
- Understand that the last number name said tells the number of objects counted, up to 10.