

Unit 3: Awesome Animals
Week 7: What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?

Objectives:

To read *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?* with your preschooler, talk about animals' senses of hearing and smell, and have a wonderful time learning about animals together.

Materials:

A copy of *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?* by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page

Week 7 Lesson Steps:

1. Start by telling your preschooler that you are going to read a new book today, *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?* Help your preschooler make predictions about the book.

Example Questions

- What do you think this book will be about?
- What animals can you think of that have tails?
- Why do you think people don't have tails?

Introduction/Ice Breaker

Read this poem with your preschooler and talk about how silly it is:

Eletelephony

by Laura Richards

Once there was an elephant,
Who tried to use the telephant-
No! No! I mean an elephone
Who tried to use the telephone-
(Dear me! I am not certain quite
That even now I've got it right.)

Howe'er it was, he got his trunk
Entangled in the telephunk;
The more he tried to get it free,
The louder buzzed the telephee-
(I fear I'd better drop the song
Of elephop and telephong!)

2. Read *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?* with your preschooler. You can focus on the first five pages (introduction, nose, and ears) during this reading unless your preschooler wants to keep going. There's plenty to talk about in just those first few pages!

Fun and Easy Reading Tips

- Play guess the animal with your preschooler. See if your preschooler can identify the animal by just its nose or ears!
- Talk with your preschooler about the ways that his or her ears and nose are similar or different to the animals in the book. Here are some questions you might ask:
 - What do you use your ears for?
 - What do you use your nose for?
 - How are your ears like the animal's ears?
 - How is your nose like the animal's nose?
- Go on a letter search. Help your preschooler find all of one particular letter on a page.
- Answer questions that your preschooler has about the animals he or she may never have seen before by referring to the informational pages in the back of the book.
- Help your preschooler pick a distinguishing animal feature (for example, a long nose or big feet) and count the animals in the book with that feature.

Conclusion:

Today you read *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?* with your preschooler and talked about animals' sense of smell and hearing. You are helping your preschooler learn about his or her world!

Follow-Up Activity:

Pretend with your preschooler. Can you walk around your house like an elephant or slither around like an alligator?

Writing Extension:

Help your preschooler write and illustrate a sentence or two about some of the things he or she either hears or smells during the day.

Early Developmental Standards Taught in Week 7

- Describe and identify the similarities, categories, and different structures of familiar plants and animals.
- Make predictions based on background knowledge, previous scientific exploration, and observations of objects and events in the world.
- Develop new vocabulary by engaging in meaningful discussions and activities to promote learning of unfamiliar words found in informational text.
- Demonstrate developing basic knowledge of letter-sound correspondence association by beginning to match the name and initial sound of some consonant letters such as in own name, classmates' names, or common words.