

Unit 3: Awesome Animals
Week 8: What If I Had A Tail?

Objectives:

To read *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?* with your preschooler, talk about animals' tails and eyes, and enjoy reading about animals together!

Materials:

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

Week 8 Lesson Steps:

1. Start by telling your preschooler that you are going to continue reading *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?* Ask your preschooler to remember what he or she learned the last time you read the text.

Example questions:

- What do you remember about this book?
- What was your favorite part the last time we read it together?

Introduction/Ice Breaker:

Conduct a scientific investigation. With your preschooler, watch an animal that has a tail (or watch a video on the internet or read another animal book) and see what the animal does with his or her tail. What would you do if you had a tail? Would it be in your way? Would it tell other people that you are happy or scared?

2. Read *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?* with your preschooler. You do not have to read the entire book. This week try focusing on the pages about tails and eyes!

Fun and Easy Reading Tips:

- Play guess the animal with your preschooler. See if your preschooler can identify the animal by just its tail or eyes!
- 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.
- Talk with your preschooler about the way that his or her eyes are similar or different than animal eyes. Here are some questions you might ask:
 - What do your eyes help you do?
 - What do animal eyes help animals do?
 - Some people wear glasses. Do animals wear glasses? Why or why not?
- Make connections to what your preschooler already knows. If you have visited the zoo, remind your preschooler about the animals that you saw together. If you have read another book with animals, you can connect that book to *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?*
- Talk with your preschooler about beginning word sounds. Give your preschooler a chance to choose whether two words sound similar or different. For example, you could ask, "Does 'skunk' begin with the same sound as 'scorpion' or 'monkey'?"

Conclusion:

Today you read *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?* with your preschooler and talked about tails and eyes. Your preschooler is learning so much about animals!

Follow-Up Activity:

Grab a flashlight and show your preschooler how to make animal shadow puppets in a dark room. What animals can you come up with?

Writing Extension:

Help your preschooler write and illustrate a sentence or two about what he or she thinks it would be like to be an animal.

Early Developmental Standards Taught in Week 8

- Describe and identify the similarities, categories, and different structures of familiar plants and animals.
- With guidance and support, discriminate between words with the same and different first letter sounds.
- With modeling and support, use a combination of drawing, dictating, and emergent writing to express a preference, opinion, or idea about a specific topic or text.
- With modeling and guidance, ask and answer questions in order to seek help, get information, or clarify something which is not understood.