



**Introduction**

During the first 18 months of life, children are usually referred to as young infants (birth to 8 months) and mobile infants (8 to 18 months). Children between the ages of 18 and 36 months are usually called toddlers.

In Focus Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, toddlers were involved in experiences that focused on themselves, their families, their communities, their favorite things for play and learning, the clothes we wear, and things that grow. This Focus Area #6 is **Animals in Our World**.

In this Focus Area, **Animals in Our World**, the experiences will primarily support the following Development Strand:

- 5. To learn to think – Cognitive Development

As in all of the Focus Areas, there are experiences that support all of the Developmental Strands with a strong emphasis on

- 6. To learn to communicate – Language Development

As noted in the Focus Area #1 introduction, *The Arkansas Framework for Infant and Toddler Care* contains information about each developmental strand and how the strands intertwine with each other. It is suggested that you review the Framework as a foundation for using the **Adventures for Toddlers** curriculum with your children.

Toddlers begin a love affair with animals that continues through their preschool years and often through their lives. Many families have pets with dogs and cats the most common. Some families live on a farm. Toddlers see animals as they travel with their families. Animals are a part of children’s environment.

Through both planned and spontaneous experiences, caregivers can provide opportunities for toddlers to discover many things about animals in their world.

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***Note that many of the experiences in this Focus Area have an age designation of either Younger Toddler (YT) or Older Toddler (OT) and that these two age designations do not specify age in months. Weekly plan sheets that focus on one or more of the big ideas in a Focus Area are included. One plan sheet for each week will be designated for Younger Toddlers and one for Older Toddlers.***

***There will be several weeks of plan sheets for each Focus Area. Some of the same experiences will be included for more than one week because toddlers need many opportunities to develop and reinforce skills and begin to understand concepts.***

***Developers of Adventures for Toddlers suggest that caregivers use their knowledge of individual children to determine which experiences are appropriate for which children in their care. Feel free to adapt the weekly plan sheets or to develop new plan sheets to meet the needs of each child and of the group. Consider adding additional experiences from the many that are a part of this Focus Area.***



## Resources

- Children's books can be purchased online, from school supply catalogs or local book stores.
- Check with your local library for the availability of children's books.
- Contact the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education for the following materials or locate at [www.arkansas.gov/childcare](http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare)
  - ✓ A Story a Month - *The Three Little Pigs* (patterns for storytelling figures)
  - ✓ A Story a Month – *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* (patterns for storytelling figures)
  - ✓ A Story a Month – *Ask Mr. Bear* (patterns for storytelling figures)
  - ✓ Mother Goose Rhymes: Hey Diddle Diddle  
Old Mother Hubbard  
Little Boy Blue  
Little Bo Peep
- **The Infant /Toddler Photo Activity Library**, A Pam Schiller Resource, published by Gryphon House (52 photos & activity cards focusing on the following topics: Me and My Body, Families, Things I Wear, Toys, Pets, Big Animals, Transportation, Construction.)  
Website: [www.ghbooks.com](http://www.ghbooks.com)  
Phone: 301-595-9500 or 800-638-0918 (toll free)
- CDs which can be ordered online or from school supply catalogs:
  - Baby Beluga by Raffi
  - Songs for I Love You Rituals and Songs for I Love You Rituals 2 with songs by Dr. Becky Bailey and music by Mar Harman
  - Start Smart Songs for 1s, 2s & 3s – Brain-Building Activities by Pam Schiller, KIMBO Educational
  - Toddlers on Parade, KIMBO Educational
  - 50 Toddler Sing-Along Songs (2 CDs with 50 activities), Twin Sisters, [www.twinsisters.com](http://www.twinsisters.com)



## Picture File

- Collect pictures that relate to this Focus Area – **Animals in Our World**. Examples of pictures to collect include:
    - pictures of animals: dogs, cats, cows, horses, sheep, goats, pigs, chickens, ducks and geese
    - photos of children with their pets and with farm animals
    - pictures of farms
- Include small (index card size) as well as larger pictures.  
Consider mounting the small pictures on index cards. Laminate or cover all of the pictures with clear, self-adhesive paper for durability.
- Post some of the pictures on the wall at toddler's eye level. Observe to see if toddlers look at the pictures and point to and/or name the objects or people in the pictures. Join them and expand on what they say. For example, say to Megan who is looking at a collection of pictures of farm animals, "Megan, you're looking at ducks swimming in the lake. Remember when we sang a song about six little ducks."

- Put some of the small pictures in a container and place it in the library area so that it is accessible to children. Observe a child as he takes the pictures out of the box. Should the child bring a picture to you, involve him in discussing what he sees in the picture. "The lady is riding the horse."
- Keep some of the pictures in a basket or tote bag within easy reach. Use the pictures with an individual child or a small group of children. Invite them to name objects and to talk about what is happening in the pictures. Allow children to look at the pictures on their own. Model and talk with them about the proper way to handle the pictures.
- Determine if funds are available to purchase **The Infant /Toddler Photo Activity Library**, a Pam Schiller resource published by Gryphon House. See **Resources** for ordering information.

**Note:** Refer to **Curriculum Tips and Techniques – Picture File**, for additional information about how to organize a picture file.



### Toddler Environment

The toddler environment should always provide equipment and materials for language experiences, manipulative exploration, gross motor and block play, sensory exploration, pretend play and outdoor exploration. The following additions to the environment are intended for the entire Focus Area: **Animals in Our World**. Each **Weekly Plan Sheet** will specify which materials to add for that week.

#### Language Area

- Add the following book:
  - *Our Book of Pets*
- Add container of pictures that have been laminated or covered with clear self-adhesive paper. (See **Picture File**, page 2 for examples of types of pictures to collect.)

#### Manipulative Exploration

- Add animal puzzles
- Sensory Bottles with animals (also Sensory)
- Animal Silhouettes chart

#### Gross Motor & Blocks

- Add small boxes of different sizes
- Add trucks for hauling animals
- Add small vinyl animals
- Add cardboard brick blocks (purchased or made)
- Add farm play set
- Add small hay bales and bundles of sticks

#### Sensory Exploration

- Add Sensory Bottles with farm animals
- Add sensory tub with cotton balls, scoops, measuring cups, tongs
- Add sensory tub with water, washable farm animals and a sponge
- Add sensory tub with water and rubber ducks
- Add sensory tub with feathers

	<p><b><u>Pretend Play</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add a small basket with pad or pillow for cat and/or dog</li> <li>• Add small stuffed cat and dog</li> <li>• Add a dog care/wash prop box</li> <li>• Add farm prop box (plaid shirt, overalls, straw hat, work gloves, vinyl farm animals)</li> <li>• Add plastic eggs in a basket</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Outdoor Exploration</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider painting the big red barn outdoors</li> <li>• Hide some dog bones (cardstock, laminated or covered in clear self adhesive paper) in obvious places on the playground. Invite children to help find the dog bones.</li> <li>• Create a Rosie's Walk obstacle course outdoors and involve children in following you through the course.</li> </ul> <p><b>Safety Note:</b> <i>It is the responsibility of the child care program and each employee to ensure the safety of toddlers in the program. This includes the materials and equipment provided for children's use. Should you have safety questions, the developers of this curriculum suggest that you consult with your Child Care Licensing Specialist for technical assistance.</i></p> <p><i>Curriculum books such as The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers &amp; 2s, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, contain safety information. See <b>Curriculum Tips and Techniques, References and Resources</b>, for additional resources.</i></p>
 <p><b><u>Family Experiences</u></b></p>	<p>Send home a note to families stating that for the next few weeks the children will be involved in the focus area: <b>Animals in Our World</b>. They will participate in experiences that focus on animals they see in their environment. How families can be involved in this focus area will depend on the situation of each child and his or her family.</p> <p>Consider some of the following ways to involve the families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite families to send a photo of their child and/or other family members with the family pet. Suggest that families include the name of the pet on the back of the picture.</li> <li>• Invite families who live on a farm to send photos of their farm animals.</li> <li>• Invite families to send pictures of animals. Specify the animals that the children will be learning about.</li> <li>• Suggest that families call their child's attention to animals they see in their backyard, their neighborhood, in the park, or as they are riding in the car.</li> </ul>