

Silly Animals Unit Extension Activities

Below are some extension activities for this unit! Although these activities require more planning and materials, they also allow for more creativity and free exploration!

The Pigeon Needs a Bath

- **Art:** The author of the Pigeon series, Mo Willems, has awesome extension activities on his website. Check it out here: <http://pigeonpresents.com/get-busy/>
- **Sensory:** Bubble bin! Make sudsy water and have your child give “baths” to their plastic toys! This is a great way to incorporate the book into sensory play while getting some spring cleaning done!
- **Text to Self:** Connecting the books we read to our own lives helps us to understand them and fosters a love of reading. Ask your child “what would you say to the Pigeon when he says that he doesn’t need a bath?”

Too Many Carrots

- **Gross Motor:** Hopping games! Bunnies love to hop, let’s act like bunnies and do some hopping of our own! There are many ways that you can incorporate this skill into homemade games.
 - **Letter Hop** - Draw letters on the driveway with chalk. Call out a letter for your child to hop to!
 - **Hopscotch** - This classic game is a great way to incorporate hopping, balance, and number recognition!
- **Text to Self:** Connecting the books we read to our own lives helps us to understand them and fosters a love of reading. Ask your child “Rabbit loved carrots, so he collected them! What food is your favorite? Would you try to collect it?” This is a great way to talk about how we are similar to the characters in a story!

Put Me in the Zoo

- **STEM:** Build a zoo! Have your child use blocks or other materials that you may have available to build a zoo for their animals! This requires planning and building skills, but they will have so much fun that they won't even realize that they are working on these skills!
- **Art/Fine Motor:** Make your own spotted pictures! Use do-a-dot markers, circular stickers, or markers to color in pictures using spots. Using stickers for art is a great way to increase fine motor skills!
- **Science:** Do a zoo vs. not zoo animal sort! Gather stuffed animals, plastic animals, or even pictures of animals and give your child the challenge of sorting them into two categories: zoo animals and not zoo animals. Talk about the characteristics of each category!

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

- **Cooking:** Make cookies! Why not surprise your hard-working preschooler by making cookies together? Baking is a great way to practice math skills like measuring and counting.
- **Sensory:** Play dough cookies! Make cookies from play dough together. You can use different shaped cookie cutters and also use this as an opportunity to talk about shapes!
- **Art/Literacy Skills:** Make a mouse puppet at home and use it to re-tell the story! You could do this with paper, popsicle sticks, or even a paper bag! Here is the way one art teacher brought the mouse to life using a paper bag: <http://kathy-angelnik.blogspot.com/2014/07/if-you-give-mouse-cookie-mouse-puppet.html> The options are endless!

I'll Wait, Mr. Panda

- **Art:** Why not make a giant doughnut of your own? Use whatever materials you may have at home and decorate your very own giant doughnut! I love how this blogger used real sprinkles and a paper plate to make a doughnut. Check it out: <https://happyhooligans.ca/paper-plate-donut-craft/>
- **Sensory:** Sprinkle writing tray! Use sprinkles to encourage letter writing. Pour sprinkles to cover the bottom of a plate or tray. Give your child letters to write and let them trace the letters in the sprinkles! What a sweet, fun time!