

EXPLORE SPEECH & LANGUAGE AT...

Squeals on Wheels Petting Zoo

Saturday, June 27th from 10:30-11:30am at Davis Library in Bethesda



At *Squeals on Wheels*, your children will be so busy getting to know the animals in this award-winning miniature petting zoo that they won't even realize they're learning!

TALKING

EXPLORE: Action Words
ENRICH: Expressive Grammar
ENGAGE: Using verbs to describe the actions animals make



PARENT PROMPT:

- Ask your child to observe the animals in the petting zoo before petting them to answer the question, "How do the animals move?" Talk about how humans move - we walk, we bite, we wave - and compare human movements to the animal movements, answering the following questions:
 - How do the animals move from one place to another? (e.g. trot, hop)
 - How do the animals eat? (e.g. chew, lick)
 - How do the animals greet each other? (e.g. nuzzle, whinny)



WORD PLAY

EXPLORE: /s/ Blends
ENRICH: Articulation of Consonant Blends for Clear Communication
ENGAGE: Production of /s/ blends at the beginning and end of words



PARENT PROMPT:

- Start the day by reminding your child how to make an /s/ sound: keep tongue behind your teeth and make a skinny stream of air.
- While you explore the petting zoo, make a list of words that have /s/ t at the beginning (e.g. SQueal) or end (e.g. rabbits).
 - Practice the /s/ sound all by itself
 - Practice 5 words with /s/ blends at the beginning of the word and 5 /s/ blends at the end of the word
 - Practice those 10 words in a complete sentence (e.g. "The chicken is SQwaking.")



LISTENING

EXPLORE: Careful Listening
ENRICH: Auditory Discrimination
ENGAGE: The ability to differentiate between animal sounds



PARENT PROMPT:

- While exploring the petting zoo, talk about the noises the animals make. For example, some squeal, some cluck, some bleat, etc.
- Take turns playing a listening game with your child. Have your child close his/her eyes and walk close to an animal. When the animal makes a noise, have your child guess which animal he/she is standing in front of. See if your child can guess the animal with decreasing levels of support:
 - With a verbal clue (e.g. "It's an animal with feathers.")
 - With 3 choices (e.g. "Is it a pig, a chicken, or a rabbit?")
 - With a sentence starter (e.g. "I hear a ____.")



SOCIAL LANGUAGE SKILLS

EXPLORE: Asking Questions
ENRICH: Social Interactions with Adults
ENGAGE: The ability to ask an unfamiliar adult a question



PARENT PROMPT:

- After the educational presentation, challenge your child to ask a ques to the presenter to learn more about an animal that he/she thinks is interesting. Have your child practice the following social language skill while he/she asks the question:
 - Politely get the presenter's attention (e.g. "Excuse me")
 - Use a complete sentence
 - Make a follow-up comment

