



SASKATOON
ZOO SOCIETY

ANIMAL HOMES

AT THE ZOO

Tour around the Zoo. Then stop at the animal that you like the best.

Look for the following:

1. Where does the animal sleep?
2. Where can it go to hide?
3. Does it climb, fly, run, slither (or other movements)?
4. What's all in it's space?
5. Does it live with another animal?

Have an adult (or you) take a picture of the animal's home at the Zoo so you can look at it when you get home for your at home project.

AT HOME

Once you are at home, see if you can build your favourite animal's home. You could use lego blocks, nature items, paper and pencil crayons, etc.

Try to make it first without looking at the picture you took. How does your animal home compare to the original at the Zoo?

Do you remember how it looked at the Zoo? If not, look at the picture you or an adult took.

AT HOME

Find an animal story at home or at the library.

Read it several times so you know the story pretty well.

Ask yourself or ask your child:

1. Who is the main character (animal) in the story?
2. What words would you use to describe the character in the story?
3. Can you relate to anything that happened in the story?
4. Would the story change if there was a different animal or animals involved? How?
5. Could you think of another ending for the story?

AT THE ZOO

Once you are at the Zoo, see if you can find any of the animals that were in the story. Do they look like how they were presented in the story? If you can't find the same animals, look at animals you think could be in the story. Can your child recreate the story using animals they find at the Zoo?

Does the story change at all with new animals?

Encourage your child to think of a new story that they could make up while at the Zoo.

BACK AT HOME

Have your child draw a picture of their new story using the animals they saw at the Zoo. If they have trouble drawing, use old calendars or magazines. Or, even print a few pictures you took of animals while at the Zoo!

AT THE ZOO

See if you can find the following and take a picture. If you came with two or more children and more than 1 parent/caregiver, you could split up and make it a challenge to see who gets all the photos done first. If you are just by yourself with a child, then see how long it will take you to find all the pictures!

1. Find a staff member or volunteer at the Zoo
2. Find a bird sitting on a branch
3. Find an animal that is eating
4. Find an animal that you think runs fast
5. Find an animal track in the Zoo or park
6. Take a picture of yourself on the bird wall at the Meerkat house
7. Find an animal with antlers
8. Find an animal that has white fur
9. Find an animal that swims
10. Find an animal that burrows

AT HOME

Look at the pictures that you took at the Zoo. Go for a walk around your neighbourhood.

Can you find any animals that would match the list above?

Were any of the animals the same or did you find different ones in your neighbourhood?

Were there any ones you couldn't find?

Why do you think you couldn't find some of them?

Compare your neighbourhood pictures to the ones you took at the Zoo. Do you want to learn more about the animals in your neighbourhood? Do a little research on your own!



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ANIMAL ALPHABET

AT THE ZOO

How many words at the Zoo can you find with each letter of the alphabet? Hint: you don't have to just use animal names. Take a good look around in the park and Zoo for all that nature provides!

AT HOME

What can you find around your house and yard that start with each letter of the alphabet? If your child is just starting to read or can't read yet, write out the words as you think of them and then set them on the item you found to help the child learn the word. For example, if you find a "chair" for the letter "c" then write out chair and attach it to the chair. You'll be amazed at how quickly your child will recognize these new words! If your child can read, have them write out the words themselves for each letter!

AT THE ZOO

Have your child tell you their five senses, or if they don't know yet, point to your nose and tell them that we smell with our nose, point to your hands and say we feel with our hands, etc. Then tell them that they are going to go on a senses scavenger hunt at the Zoo!

1. What's the smelliest animal at the Zoo?
2. What sounds can they hear at the Zoo? Or which animal do they think can hear the best?
3. Do they notice any differences in the eyes of the animals at the Zoo? (hint: look at the pupils of the goats - what do you notice?)
4. Look at the feet of different animals. What do you notice about them? Do some feet help them swim, climb better, run, etc. Which animal(s) might have feet like theirs?

AT HOME

Taste! Do this one at home.

Parents: pick out some food items for your child to taste. Find something that is salty, sweet, sour and savoury. Which ones do they like the best?

Find a favourite recipe that you like and have your child(ren) help you make it and enjoy it together. Maybe you even want to have a little party where you dress up and share some time enjoying the "taste" of your new treat!