

Vocabulary and pictures for children:

Animal stories

Patterns

Animal sounds

Caring for animals

Pets

Texture of animals

Grouping animals

Wild animals

Animal diets

Habitats

Key questions for children to discuss with adults:

- Can you name your favourite animal and explain why it is so great? Then can you name an animal you do not like as much and explain why you dislike it?
- Can you name where different animals live? E.g. Certain animals only live in certain countries.
- What can a bird do that a lion can't? How does it do this?
- What patterns or colours can we see on animals? Why do animals have these?
- Which animals make good pets and why? Which animals do not make good pets and why?
- What do we need to do to care for animals well?
- Can you name an animal for each letter of the alphabet?
- Can you talk about the different ways in which animals move? Can you show an adult how they move?
- Think about different sounds that animals make? Can you make any of their sounds?
- Do all animals eat the same food? How are they different? Do they have special names for animals that eat meat, only plants or both?
- What kind of homes do animals make for themselves and how? Is where a rabbit lives the same as where a bird lives?
- How do animals have babies? Do they all lay eggs?
- Do we see all animals throughout the day? What do we call those animals that only come out at night?
- Do you know of any animals that live in water? Can you name some and describe them? Are there any that look unusual?
- Are there any special names for groups of animals? (E.g. A group of lions is called a pride etc.)

Key vocabulary – Can you get your child to explain what some of these words mean?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language to do with texture: furry, fluffy, feathery, leathery, hard, soft, rough, smooth, slimy, tough, squashy, bumpy • Language related to how animals move: jump, gallop, leap, scurry, run, bound, scuttle, slither, swim, fly, glide • Language related to patterns: spots, stripes, camouflage, blend in | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat, country, surroundings, weather • Language related to diets: herbivore, carnivore, omnivore • Language related to sounds: roar, bark, mew, squawk, squeak, hiss, spit, bellow, peck, oink, moo, cluck • Nocturnal animals e.g. bats, badgers, hedgehogs, owls • Underwater sea creatures: narwhal, dolphin, whale, seahorse, urchin, shark, starfish, crab, sawfish |
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