

Brain-Building Activities for Young Explorers at the Zoo

Did you know you can engage children in fun and stimulating activities that promote learning and development at the zoo?

Through positive interactions with young children, during everyday moments, you can help their brain grow stronger. Get started by participating in these brain-building activities with your child to make the most of your visit at the zoo.

<p>Animal bigger than you</p> 	<p>Animal smaller than you</p>	<p>Baby animal</p>	<p>Animal with fur</p>	<p>Animal with scales</p>
<p>Animal with feathers</p>	<p>Animal that's brown</p>	<p>Animal that's sleeping</p>	<p>Animal that makes loud noises</p> 	<p>Animal that's eating</p>
<p>Animal that's playing</p>	<p>Animal with spots</p>	<p>FREE SPACE</p>	<p>Animal with stripes</p>	<p>Animal that loves the water</p>
<p>Animal that brings you joy</p>	<p>Animal that's quiet</p> 	<p>Animal with a beak</p>	<p>Animal with large ears</p>	<p>Animal that has a long neck</p>
<p>Colorful animal</p>	<p>Animal that crawls on the ground</p>	<p>Animal that lives in a tree</p>	<p>Animal that eats leaves</p>	<p>Animal with a long tail</p> 

It's time to explore the wonderful world of animals!

Try these brain-building tips from Vroom® as you enjoy your visit at the zoo.



Moving Creatures

Suggested Age
2–4 years

Think of an animal or bird your child knows about and ask them, “How does it move?” Invite them to imitate it, like a dog running, a bug creeping, a bird flapping, or a squirrel scampering. When you have played this for a while, have them imitate something and see if you can guess what it is.

Brainy Background™

Your child has to pay careful attention to how animals or birds move in order to imitate them. In doing this activity, children are focusing, using their working memories to recall the movements, and using self-control in managing their behavior—skills that are important in learning and in life.



Did You Hear That?

Suggested Age
0–12 months

When you're outside, ask your child, “Did you hear that?” each time you hear a sound. Imitate the sound out loud and make gestures to go along with it. Invite them to make the sound too.

Brainy Background™

You're giving your child practice at being able to hear different sounds. This is an important skill for enjoying and learning language so they can communicate well with others.



Name 2

Suggested Age
4–5 years

Choose a category, like animals. Going through the alphabet, help your child think of two animals that start with “A.” Next, think of two animals that start with the letter “B”? Keep going through the alphabet. Try this game with other categories too, like fruits and vegetables.

Brainy Background™

Playing word games builds your child's language skills, while helping them make new connections between letters, sounds, and animals. Being able to make these kinds of connections supports your child's creative thinking.



Point It Out

Suggested Age
9–18 months

When your child points to something outside, you can say its name and something about it: “You see the dog! What sound does a dog make? Woof, woof!” Then you take a turn to point to something. Do they look at it? Do they point to or name the object? Encourage them to respond.

Brainy Background™

When you help your child make connections between their interesting experiences and the words that describe them, they're developing an understanding of how things fit together. This foundation will help them with skills like reading and writing in the future.



Visit [WeAreBrainBuilders.org](https://www.WeAreBrainBuilders.org) for more brain-building resources for families.

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