

# Theme: Farm Life

## Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

- Pretend to be a farm animal and walk like that animal would walk.
- Pretend to be farmers and drive tractors (tricycles, etc.).
- The Farmer in the Dell
- Duck-Duck-Goose
- Relay races with eggs on spoons (use plastic eggs)
- Toss bean bags into a milk pail
- Sack races with croaker sacks

## Math Activities:

- Create a bar graph to show information about a favorite farm animal—number of brown cows, number of black/white cows, etc.
- Farm animal bingo
- Ask Me 5 Questions – Think of a farm animal. Let child ask 5 questions to try to guess what that animal is.
- Farm animal concentration
- Farm animal word match

## Science Activities:

- Kitchen chemistry: Let children help you measure ingredients to make homemade bread, either the old-fashioned way or with a bread machine.
- Make homemade butter (instructions below). Talk about how the liquid is changing to a solid.
- Put a sweet potato in water and watch it sprout!
- Talk about plants and how they need good soil, sunshine and water to grow.

## Small Motor/Manipulatives:

- Use play dough to make a farm animal.
- Put a couple of large spoonfuls of chocolate pudding in the water table and let children take turns driving toy tractors through the “mud.” Plastic farm animals work well, too.

## Songs & Fingerplays:

See fingerplay and action rhyme cards.

## Snacks:

- Homemade butter made in circle time activity; serve on warm bread or crackers.
- Fresh vegetables, boiled eggs, bacon, fresh baked bread or biscuits, and other foods you might find on a farm.
- Eat haystacks (shredded wheat cereal)
- Eat meat from different farm animals
- Let the children help make chocolate pudding; serve with animal crackers and act out the story, “O Lovely Mud Party.
- Dirt Pudding – popular chocolate pudding layered with chocolate cookie crumbs that look like dirt.

## Special Visual Aids/Room Set-Up/Field Trips:

Field trip idea: Visit a farm or petting zoo. Create picture-checklists of things for the children to look for on the trip and let them check off each item as it is found.

## Dramatic Play:

Let children dress up as their favorite farm animal.

## Books:

Barnyard Dance! by Sandra Boynton  
Big Red Barn, by Margaret Wise Brown  
Wake Up, Sun! (Step Into Reading)  
Barnyard Banter, by Denise Fleming  
Barnyard Song, by Rhonda Gowler Greene  
Giggle, Giggle, Quack, by Doreen Cronin  
Click, Clack, Moo Cows That Type, by Doreen Cronin  
Old MacDonald Had a Farm  
The Little Red Hen  
On Grandpa's Farm, by Vivian Sathre  
Farming, by Gail Gibbons  
Rosie's Walk, by Pat Hutchins  
If You Give a Pig a Pancake, by Laura Numeroff  
The Fourth Little Pig  
The Three Little Wolves & the Big Bad Pig, Eugene Trivizas  
Mud Soup, from the Wright Group Song Box Series

Rooster's Off to See the World, by Eric Carle  
Farm Alphabet Book, by Jane Miller  
Mrs. Wishy Washy, by Joy Cowley  
The Carrot Seed, by Ruth Kraus  
The Enormous Potato, by Aubrey Davis  
Chickens Aren't the Only Ones, by Ruth Heller  
The Chicken Sisters, by Laura Numeroff  
The Cow that Went OINK, by Bernard Most  
The Milk Makers, by Gail Gibbons  
Milk – From Cow to Carton, by Alike  
Barn Dance, by John Archambault  
Arthur on the Farm, by Marc Brown  
Pigs, by Robert Munsch  
The Farm Concert, by Joy Cowley  
Yes Ma'am, by Joy Cowley

## Art:

- ❑ Draw pictures of farm animals.
- ❑ Print a barn pattern on a piece of white paper and let children paint it, color it, etc.
- ❑ Let children glue straw/hay to a paper plate to make a "nest" for a hen; hens can be cut out of construction paper.
- ❑ Make stick puppets to go with The Farm Concert, Mrs. Wishy Washy.
- ❑ Milk paint: Mix a little tempera paint with milk and drop it with an eye dropper onto a white coffee filter to see starbursts of color!
- ❑ Cut out a large rooster shape and let children glue on multi colors of tissue paper for a bright rooster!

## Circle Time Activities:

- ❑ Read books about farm animals and farm life.
- ❑ Make butter by filling a small jar half full of heavy cream; screw the lid on tightly, and let the children shake the cream until butter forms. Children can spread the butter on crackers or some warm homemade bread to have a taste.
- ❑ Let the children close their eyes and dream about what it would be like to live on a farm. Let them share their thoughts with the group.
- ❑ Laminate pictures of animals and their homes; let the children match the animal to its home.
- ❑ Foods we get from animals and farms – talk about the importance of the food groups.
- ❑ Match up mothers and baby farm animals.
- ❑ Use puppets to read books or tell stories.

## Sources:

<http://www.preschool-activities-everyday.com/preschool-farm-unit.html>

<http://www.kinderkorner.com/farm.html>

Thanks to Kinder Korner: Here's a fun chant that can also be sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" while shaking your butter jars. It's called "**Making Butter Boogie.**"

Shake it up  
Shake it down  
Shake it, shake it all around.  
Shake it high  
Shake it low  
Shake it, shake it to and fro.  
Shake it over  
Shake it under  
Pretty soon, you'll have butter!