

Parent Tips: Ready for School Center:

Here are some fun things to do to help reinforce your child's learning in each of Computer Cool School's activity centers. You can further extend your child's learning opportunities by printing out the activities for each of the different centers.

Science Center:

Build early science skills with the following hands-on activities:

READY FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

*EXPLORE THE DIFFERENT HABITATS:

To help your child learn about different animal habitats, talk about the animals found in the Artic, savanna, tropical rainforest, tropical ocean, and Rocky Mountains.

1. Turn down the sound so that you and your child can talk about the different animal habitats.
2. Select one of the habitats. Name the different animals that live in the habitat as well as what sound each of the animals make.
3. Describe each of the animals, such as how the animal moves, what the animal eats, or the kind of body cover of that animal (e.g., feathers, fur).
4. Discuss any experiences that your child has had seeing or hearing the different animals (e.g., saw the animal at the zoo).
5. Talk about the word labels that identify each of the animals. What is the first letter of the word? What is the last letter of the word? How many letters make up the word?

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

*SING A WILD ANIMAL SONG:

To help your child build listening skills and learn about the different sounds wild animals make, sing the song *The Animals in the Wild*. For additional verses, ask your child to name a favorite wild animal and fill in the sound that animal makes.

The Animals in the Wild

(Sung to the tune of *The Wheels on the Bus*)

The lion in the wild goes roar, roar, roar;
roar, roar, roar,
roar, roar, roar.

The lion in the wild goes roar, roar, roar;

All day long!

The hippo in the wild goes snort, snort, snort;
snort, snort, snort,
snort, snort, snort.

The hippo in the wild goes snort, snort, snort;
All day long!

The bear in the wild goes growl, growl, growl;
growl, growl, growl,
growl, growl, growl.

The bear in the wild goes growl, growl, growl;
All day long!

*EXPLORE ANIMAL BOOKS:

To help your child learn about the animals that live in different habitats, read books about wild animals. Go to the library, bookstore, or check on-line resources for stories that focus on wild animals. As you read a book about wild animals, try the following:

1. Ask your child to find and name the different wild animals.
2. Have your child make the sound that each wild animal makes.
3. Discuss how the wild animals move in different ways.
4. Talk about how the wild animals behave.

*VISIT THE ZOO:

To help your child learn about the different zoo animals and their habitats, visit your local zoo.

1. Call and see if the zoo has any events that might be appealing for your child.
2. Pick a few favorite animals to visit rather than trying to visit all of the animal exhibits (young children have short attention spans).
3. Go on a zoo hunt and look for your child's favorite animals.
4. Discuss each animal on your zoo hunt: the animal's colors and patterns, locomotion (e.g., how does the animal move), defenses (e.g., sharp teeth, claws, camouflage), size, diet, and habitat (e.g., lives in water).

CREATIVE PROJECTS

*MAKE AN ANIMAL MASK:

To help your child learn about the appearance of wild animals and to encourage your child's creativity and imagination, make a paper plate animal mask.

1. Ask your child to pick an animal from one of the animal habitats in the Ready For School Science Center. Talk about what the animal's face looks like.

2. Take a paper plate to use as the animal's head. Draw eyes on the plate and cut them out so that your child can look through them.
3. Use crayons, markers, feathers, and other household items to add features to the animal's face.
4. Glue or tape a tongue depressor or Popsicle stick to the bottom of the paper plate so that the mask has a handle.
5. Have your child use the mask to act out the movements or the sound that the animal makes.