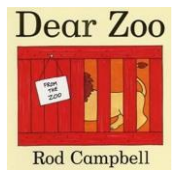


Dear Zoo

This storybook could be useful to try with children motivated by animals and who like repetition in stories. It's a good format for using along with visual supports. The repetitive storyline can be used to enhance inclusion for pre-verbal children or reluctant talkers who are able to use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).



Cueing in...

- Choose an appropriate prop from the story as your cueing in tool e.g. a cuddly toy/puppet puppy or lion. Some children may respond better to a more realistic toy animal rather than a cuddly toy.
- A picture from the book or a visual symbol could be used instead.
- Have a bag or box with a picture of the book on the front and animals from the story inside.



Show the cueing object each time you plan to listen to/watch the story and be consistent in the one you always use. Something that's easy to hold can also be useful for maintaining the attention of children throughout the story.

Accessibility

Stick piece of card or a button on the top corners of the pages to help separate them and make them easier to turn. Try fixing ribbons on the flaps to help pull them open.

An audio-visual version of the book may suit the child better or be more motivating. This version is read by Rod Campbell and has clear pictures, animal noises and sound effects.

Communication and Language

This story has a repetitive phrase, 'I sent him back' which can encourage children to join in. This phrase could be recorded on a BIGmack switch or a Talking Tin to include children who may be pre-verbal or reluctant talkers.

Learn the Makaton signs for the animals and retell the story using Makaton.



Props and Visual Supports

Make up a bag of visual props of the animals from the story. Pull out the matching animal for each page or use finger puppets to support the story.

A 'Go-Talk' could be used to record animal sounds or names. The animal symbols or photos could be matched to the pictures in the book. Alternatively you could just make up a sheet or individual card with photos, pictures or symbols to match or point to during the story.



Movement Ideas

For body awareness ideas try moving like animals or supporting children with limited mobility to copy animal movements. 'From Head to Toe' by Eric Carle could be an excellent resource as it focuses on one body part at a time.

More ideas to try

- Have duplicate toy animal sets, photos or snap cards of animals for matching 'the same'.
- Explore factual books about wild animals. What do the animals eat? Where do they live?
- Explore the rhythm and pattern of language and rhymes using books like 'Rumble in the Jungle' by Giles Andreae and David Wojtowycz.



Finish

Remember to prepare the child to understand that the activity is about to end. Use phrases like 'last one', 'one more, then finish' or something similar. If props are used, involve the child in putting them back into the box/bag they came from. If you feel the child is giving you cues that they are ready to finish earlier, use your finish routine to support this.