Meet the Farm Friends

Familiarize your child with the different animal counters by playing a quick game of “Meet the Animals.” Put all the animals in the bucket, and then ask for each of them by type until one of each kind has been removed. There are 10 types of animals included: Horse, Pig, Rooster, Hen, Cow, Goat, Sheep, Ram, Dog, Donkey

Sorting Time

Practice sorting the animals. There are 10 types of animals, with 6 of each kind. Have children take the animals and sort them into 10 different piles. You can also try smaller groups of the animals by different attributes. For example, you could take the hens, roosters, dogs, and horses, and separate them into the groups “birds and mammals” or “animals with feathers and animals with hair.”

Pattern Power

Practice patterns by first showing a basic ABAB pattern using two of the animals, such as pig / cow / pig / cow. Ask your child to continue the pattern. Once they get the concept, try exploring other patterns, such as ABC ABC or even ABCD ABCD.
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At-Home Activities

Farm Fables

Use the animal counters to create and solve story problems that involve addition and subtraction. Say: “Two horses walk into the barn. Three more horses join them. How many horses are there altogether?” Perform this activity with many different quantities, animal counters, and story scenarios.

Who’s Missing?

Place several of the animal counters in front of your child. Make sure there is only one of each animal. Ask your child to study the animals carefully, then close their eyes. Remove one of the animals and put it out of sight. Have the child look again and try to guess which one is no longer there.

Alternative play: start with three different animal counters. When your child closes their eyes, add a fourth counter and have them guess which one was added. Continuing doing this until one of each of the animals has been added.

Who Am I

(for 2 or more children): Place a group of animal counters on the table. Have one child pick an animal, but don’t say it out loud. The other players take turns asking questions to discover the chosen animal’s identity. To make it more challenging, try limiting the questions to yes/no answers. Examples could be: “Does it walk on four legs?” or “Does it have feathers?” or “Does it have horns?”