

# TODDLERS

## READ

### In English

*Dear Zoo: A Lift-the-Flap Book* (2007) by Rod Campbell. A zoo suggests wild animals as potential pets. A catchy refrain will make children want to join in.

*Footloose* (2016) by Kenny Loggins and Tim Bowers. This bouncy book about a zoo animal dance party has a shout-worthy chorus and comes with a CD.

*Good Night, Gorilla* (1996) by Peggy Rothmann. Exuberant bedtime at the zoo. A toddler classic. Spanish version also available.

*Have You Seen Elephant?* (2016) by David Barrow. A delightfully absurd story about playing hide-and-seek with an elephant. Wonderful illustrations.

*Here Comes Dr. Hippo* (2012) by Jonathan London and Gilles Eduar. Children can snap, sneeze, and roar along with the sick zoo animals in this humorous storytime addition

*Peek-a-Boo Zoo* (2015) by Joyce Wan. Peek-a-boo board book for a sweet toddler read-aloud.

*Peppa Goes to the Zoo* (2019) by Eone. A short read, good for Peppa lovers and a zoo theme.

*The Seals on the Bus* (2000) by Lenny Hort and G. Brian Karas. A jaunty re-take of the classic song with zoo-themed, onomatopoeic lyrics. Perfect storytime choice.

*A Sick Day for Amos McGee* (2010) by Philip C. Stead and Erin E. Stead. A lovely tale about zoo animals as caretakers; better for one-on-one than group read-alouds.

*Today I Am a Veterinarian* (2018) by Marisa Polanksy and Maxine Lee. Eye-catching illustrations and racially diverse characters. Great vocab for a veterinarian theme.

### Bilingual/Spanish

*Buenas noches, gorila* (2002) by Peggy Rathmann. Spanish version of the English-language classic. (Spanish; also available in English)

*How Do You Say?/¿Cómo se dice?* (2016) by Angela Dominguez. Two giraffes who speak different languages befriend each other. (Bilingual)

*Perritos: Un libro para contar y ladrar* (2004) by Sandra Boynton. (Spanish; also available in English)

## STORYTIME TIP:

After reading *Have You Seen Elephant* (2016), play a game of hide-and-seek with a stuffed elephant.

## STORYTIME TIP:

For *Good Night, Gorilla* (1996) Give each toddler a construction paper “key” so they can play along with the little monkey’s antics.

## TODDLERS

### SING

#### Rhyme: Going to the Zoo

Toddlers will love to chant this rhyme over and over. Lyrics from Everything Preschool: <https://bit.ly/2y10mBE>

I'm going to the zoo, zoo, zoo.  
How about you you, you, you?  
We're gonna see a monkey (insert any zoo animal here)  
At the zoo, zoo, zoo!

#### Song: One Elephant Went out to Play

Tune and felt board from King County Library System: <https://bit.ly/2SXYBMT>

One elephant went out to play  
Upon a spider's web one day.  
He had such enormous fun,  
He called for another elephant to come (hold arm like a trunk)  
(Make elephant noise) (raise trunk into the air)  
Two elephants...  
Three elephants...  
Four elephants...  
Five elephants went out to play  
Upon a spider's web one day.  
The web went creak, the web went crack.  
And all of the elephants went kersplat!

#### Song: At the Zoo

To the tune of "Oh My Darlin' Clementine."

There's a monkey, there's a zebra,  
There's an elephant or two.  
I see lions and flamingos.  
Oh, I must be at the zoo.

There's a panda, there's a tiger.  
There's giraffes with long, long necks.  
There's a penguin, here's a turtle.  
There's a lion on a trek.

#### English/Spanish

zoo = el zoológico

monkey = un(a) mono(a)

#### STORYTIME TIP:

Slow down! Toddlers' brains need repetition and time to process new information, so do not try to cram all the songs and all the books into one storytime. Going too fast also makes it more difficult for storytime newcomers and ESL speakers to follow along.

#### TIP:

For more fun zoo animal songs, see Rob Reid's "Zoo Animals Introduce Themselves" in *Animal Shenanigans* (2015) and "Doot Doot Zoo" in *What's Black and White and Reid All Over?* (2012).

#### English/Spanish

monkey = un(a) mono(a)

tiger = un tigre

snake = una serpiente

owl = una lechuza

wolf = un lobo

## TODDLERS

### Song: Old MacDonald Had a Zoo/Is a Vet

This classic folk song is easily modified for a zoo/vet theme. Invite children to call out animal names to add to the song.

Old MacDonald had a zoo (or is a vet), E-I-E-I-O!  
 And at his zoo he had a bear, E-I-E-I-O!  
 With a “roar roar” here, and a “roar roar” there,  
 Here a “roar,” there a “roar,” every where a “roar roar,”  
 Old MacDonald had a zoo, E-I-E-I-O!

### Song: Mi Burrito Enfermo

Sweet felt board song about a sick donkey who gets doctor’s order to get dressed. Video version from Story Blocks here: <https://bit.ly/2AowuzZ>

A mi burro, a mi burro  
 Le duele la cabeza,  
 Y el médico le manda una gorrita negra.  
 Una gorrita negra...  
 Y mueve las patitas (shake rattle or clap hands, four beats)

A mi burro, a mi burro  
 Le duele la garganta  
 Y el médico le manda una bufanda blanca.  
 Una gorrita negra, una bufanda blanca...  
 Y mueve las patitas (shake rattle or clap hands, four beats)

A mi burro, a mi burro  
 Le duele el corazón  
 Y el médico le manda gotitas de limón  
 Una gorrita negra, una bufanda blanca, gotitas de limón...  
 Y mueve las patitas (shake rattle or clap hands, four beats)

## PLAY / TAKE HOME

### Stripe the Zebra

Draw a large zebra silhouette on white butcher paper (omit the stripes), and tape it to the wall. Give each toddler a strip of black construction paper with tape on the back, and ask them to stripe to the zebra. This could also be done with a felt board.

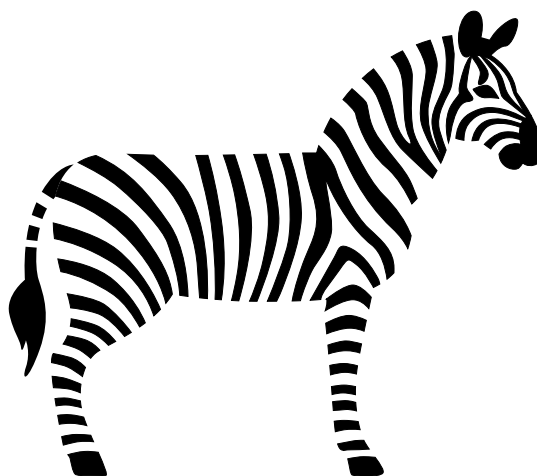


Image source: Shutterstock

## STORYTIME TIP:

Remember simple props that can be handed out to each toddler or preschooler (e.g., puppets, paper cut-outs, or popsicle sticks). When children use props to echo a story’s actions, it grounds them in the story and increases participation.

## Spanish/English

mi burrito enferma = my sick little donkey

**TODDLERS****Zoo Sensory Bin**

In a plastic storage bin, put uncooked rice (liquid watercolors optional) or kinetic sand, plastic zoo animals, scoops or small shovels, and plastic funnels. Add a plastic tablecloth for easier cleanup.

**Boo-Boo Bear**

Toddlers color “boo-boos” on their printed bears, and caregivers add bandages at home. You could also create a group felt board activity using the same idea.

