

## Purposeful Ongoing Play Enhancing Language Skills Through Play

- \* Below are some ideas that may be used, but don't feel you have to use them all every time you play with farm toys. Just pick 2 or 3 that you feel comfortable with and can easily do.
- \* As you take out the farm toys and animals, name each item or mention something specific about it as you lay it out in your play area, such as "Here's the red barn!" or "Look, we have 3 horses!"
- \* As you play, imitate the sound each animal makes (e.g. cow-moo, sheepbaa, horse-neigh, dog-woof, catmeow, duck-quack, pig-oink, and so on).
- Sing Old MacDonald Had a Farm together using the farm animals as props.
- \* Be sure to introduce each farm item you have (barn, silo, fences, tractor, farmer, hay cart, hay, etc.),

- repeating their names naturally throughout play.
- Compare and contrast the animals, talking about they eat, where they sleep, and what they look like.
- \* Make a farm-related craft or color a farm-related coloring page together. There are many wonderful websites that provide free templates for coloring and crafts.
- For a more advanced activity, if you have baby farm animals, introduce their special names (cow-calf, sheeplamb, horse-foal, dog-puppy, catkitten, duck-duckling, pig-piglet).
- Read a farm-related storybook with your child, one with lots of vivid illustrations.
  - Enjoy farming!

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