Splish, Splash, Zooborns! by Andrew Bleiman – A great book for summer as this book focuses on how animals manage the summer heat. This book is part of a fun series that feature real pictures of and information about baby animals living in the zoo. Ages 3-7.

123 Zooborns by Andrew Bleiman – Another book in the “zooborns” series - this book helps children to practice counting while looking at pictures of adorable baby zoo animals. Ages 2-6.

OTHER FUN BOOKS ABOUT ZOO ANIMALS:

Good Night Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann (Buenas Noches Gorila) – A classic story now but one that is still universally appealing to children. A baby gorilla escapes from her cage by stealing the zookeeper’s keys and proceeds to let all the other zoo animals out of their cages right behind the back of the unsuspecting zookeeper! Ages 2-5. This book is available in Spanish as well.

I Spy with My Little Eye by Edward Gibbs – In this engaging book, children are given a few clues about the animal hiding on the next page and must guess before the page is turned. The back page of this book includes a wonderful science lesson for children, showing clearly how much larger a blue whale is than any other animal on earth! Ages 3-7.

Little Beauty by Anthony Browne – Heartwarming story of a gorilla who is lonely and a special friend who comes to stay. Ages 4-8.

Where’s Walrus? By Stephen Savage – A walrus escapes from the zoo and remains one step ahead of his zookeeper for most of the story by assuming many clever disguises around town. Completely wordless! Ages 3-7. And now there is a sequel titled Where’s Walrus? And Penguin?

Who Hops? By Katie Davis (Quien Salta?) – This entertaining book (available in both English and Spanish) asks children which animals hop, swim, fly, etc. with both logical and ridiculous answers! Ages 3-7.

Wild About Books by Judy Sierra – When Marvis McGrew, local librarian, accidentally visits the zoo in her bookmobile, the animals discover a love of books and reading! Ages 4-8.

Zoo by Roger Priddy (Toddler Town series) – Fantastic board book series for toddlers with information about what they will see when they visit a zoo. Simple pictures of animals make this book interactive and fun. Ages 1-3.

Check out Raffi’s classic CD, Singable Songs for the Very Young. For a fun song about the zoo, track #13, “Going to the Zoo,” is perfect! The library has many copies of this CD available.
Act Out the story *Good Night Gorilla* by Peggy Rathmann

First, read the story several times through with your children. Since it is a nearly wordless book, it is a great book to directly involve children in the telling of the story. Children can be the storytellers!

Once everyone knows the story well, ask for volunteers to play different parts in the story. You will need a zookeeper (the zookeeper will need a colorful set of keys) and a gorilla (you don’t really need any costume or mask, children can pretend!). All the other children can pretend to be other zoo animals in the story. And, of course, one of the children will need to be the zookeeper’s wife, who ends up taking the animals back to the zoo at the end.

Make this as elaborate or simple as you like. This is a great opportunity, for children to work together to remember the story. Have fun!

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You may register for FREE STARS classes by clicking on the date of the class on the CALENDAR of the Pierce County Library web site: [www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org).

Monthly STARS classes will begin again in SEPTEMBER.

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Zoo Moves!

Sing to “Mary Wore a Red Dress” or invent your own tune!

Oh, if I were a tiny snake, a tiny snake, a tiny snake,
If I were a tiny snake, I'd slither 'round the zoo.

Continue with these animals and add even more...

Oh, if I were an elephant, I'd march around the zoo.
Oh, if I were a kangaroo, I’d hop around the zoo.
Oh, if I were a zebra, I’d gallop around the zoo.
Oh, if I were a penguin, I’d waddle around the zoo.

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**Rhymes of the Month**

**I Know a Giraffe**

*Sing to “On Top of Old Smokey”*

I know a giraffe,
With a neck that’s real high.
She stretches and stretches,
Till she reaches the sky.
She lives on the plains,
With the elephants, too.
You might also see her
When you go to a zoo.

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**Learning Ideas for July**

**Pass the Animal Game**

*What you need:*
- CD player
- Music of your choice
- Stuffed animals (zoo animals)

The children sit in a large circle. Start the music. Begin passing the animal from child to child. When the music stops, the child with the animal holds it up in the air and all the children make the sound the animal makes!

**Zoo Theme Animal Graph**

*What you need:*
- Large paper
- Markers
- Zoo animal stickers

In your large group, ask children to name different types of animals they might see at the zoo. Write them down across the top of a large piece of paper and put a sticker next to each animal name. Invite the children to come up and put a sticker or make a mark with a pen/marker next to their favorite zoo animal from the chart. Ask them to tell why they like the animal they chose. If they have trouble choosing just one favorite (this is especially challenging for little ones!), they can put a sticker next to several animals. This would be a fun activity to do if you have children of many ages in your care.

*Credit for these activities: Preschool Plan It – www.preschool-plan-it.com*