



Animally

By Lynn Parrish Sutton

Illustrated by Hazel Mitchel

Many of these activities are for children in a primary or preschool setting, but they can easily be used at home as well. The activities are designed to develop pre-reading and pre-writing skills.

Before Reading the Book

- Ask each child in turn to name one person that they love and what it is about them that makes them lovable.
- Show the children the cover of the book and ask what they think "I love you animally" might mean.
- Ask about the animals they see on the cover. Ask if they love any of these animals. Why or why not?

After Reading the Book

- Have an assortment of plush animal toys or pictures of animals on hand and give each child a different one to hold.
- Ask each child to say what their animal is and use one word to describe it.
- Say, "I love you _____," turning their descriptive word into an adverb by adding *ly*. For example:
 - "My pig is pink. I love you pinkly."
 - "Spiders are creepy! I love you creepily."

Personalize the Theme Using the Children's Names

- Turn the children's names into adverbs by having them add *ly*.
- Have each child write (or with younger children, write for them) their name adverb preceded by "I love you." (Example, "I love you Aidenly" or "I love you Madisonly.")
- Then have the child draw a picture of themselves.

Discussion Questions

After the initial reading, go back to the book slowly, page by page, and ask the child what they see. For example:

- What do you think is happening underground with the mole family?
- What do you think made the dog sad?
- Look at this picture of the shark family. What's happening? What do you think might happen next?
- Did you ever see a (any animal from the book)? Tell us about it.

Music, Words and Rhyme

- Choose any rhyming pair from the book and ask the children to think of a third animal that rhymes with the two cited. Then ask them to choose a word to describe that sound.
- Add *ly* to the descriptive word, explaining that now the word can describe how we love it. (For older children, add that you've made the word into an adverb.)
- Using the pattern in the book, add another line to the rhyming pair and sing the lines to a simple tune (The Happy Birthday song, for example).



Animal Moves

In a large space or outside, call out animal movements for the children to make. For example:

- March powerfully like an ox.
- Buzz busily like a bee.
- Run playfully like a ferret.
- Swim gracefully like a swan.
- Lumber fiercely like a bear.
- Fly bravely like an eagle.
- Waddle enormously like a hog.

Or ask the children to suggest different animals and discuss how they move. Have the children demonstrate.

Activities with Older Children

Building Vocabulary

There are 30 adverbs in *Animally*:

hugely	gently	colorfully	slowly	bravely
shyly	boldly	playfully	quietly	freely
cleverly	cutely	gracefully	blindly	exceedingly
powerfully	briskly	tenderly	softly	warmly
busily	hungrily	speedily	friskily	loyally
doggedly	musically	fiercely	deeply	enormously

- Start a chart that will eventually hold all 30 adverbs. Write the first adverb, and then the adjective next to it.
- Read both words and discuss the meaning. For example: "Hugely. Huge. What does huge mean?" Expand on their explanation if necessary.
- Find ways to use the new word in conversation during the coming days to reinforce it in the children's minds.
- Later, perhaps the following week and the weeks thereafter, repeat the activity with a new word, until eventually you've added all 30 words. Each week, review the previous words.

Use Adverbs in Daily Routines

During the course of the day, point out what the children are doing, and label it with an adverb. For example: "You are running quickly," or "You are building busily," or "You are helping kindly." The children may model your behavior and begin to incorporate adverbs in their own speech.