



Who's Ready to Play?

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Many of these activities are for children in a preschool setting with learning centers, but they can easily be used at home with one child or several children.

How Can You Tell?

Once the children have enjoyed a reading of the book and have selected their answers, ask them how they figured out which animal to choose. For example, on the "Who's ready for lunch?" page, when they point out the panda, ask them, "How can you tell?" With older children, you can ask other questions such as, "Would you like to try some bamboo for lunch? Why (or why not)?" Asking "How can you tell?" can be used with several other questions in the book.

Create the Book in 3-D

After reading the book, gather and place several toy animals on the floor or the table in front of you.

1. Arrange the animals in such a way that you can ask the children questions such as, "Who's upside down?" and "Who's found a friend?"
2. Ask other questions based on the animals you have, such as, "Who's the biggest?" or "Who's the one with wings?" or "Who is blue?" and so on.
3. Have the children think of questions to ask.

Visual Discrimination Memory Game

Using 5 or 6 toy animals, play a memory game based on the question, "Who has swapped places?" Lay the animals in front of you and ask a child to look at each of them. Ask them to turn around while you switch the positions of two of the animals. Now ask, "Can you tell who has swapped places?" If you have a group of children, repeat with each child. As the children become more proficient, add more animals to the game.

"Who's Changed Color?"

1. Provide the children with simple line drawings of familiar animals and encourage them to color or fingerpaint them in colors other than what they usually are.
2. Invite discussion on color in the animal world. Ask the children if they can think of other animals besides the chameleon that actually do change color. Why do they think certain animals are the color they are? Why are tigers striped and lions aren't? Why do giraffes have spots and zebras have stripes? Encourage the children to speculate, but also share facts from age-appropriate nonfiction books with them.

Name the Animals

1. Using the last page in the book, "Who's who?," ask a child to select an animal and choose a name for it that starts with the same letter, for example, HeeHaw the horse. Have the other children come up with more names, still using the same letter.
2. Ask the children to name a place the animal might live, again using the same letter: Where would HeeHaw the horse live? In Hawaii, of course!
3. Ask older children to expand the alliteration, making up more information about the animal: what it eats, what it does, etc., all beginning with the same letter. For



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example, Peppy the pig eats pancakes and plays peek-a-boo with her parents in Pennsylvania.

4. Ask the children if any of the animals on the page start with the same letter. Or ask them to find all of a certain letter on the page, all the Cs, or Os, etc.

Create Your Own Story

After several readings of the book, the children will become familiar with the animal characters. Help them create a story based on them. Set the stage with this simple statement, filling in the blanks differently each time:

1. I wonder what happens when *(name 2 or 3 of the animals)* get together *(a time of day, a season of the year, during an event)* at *(location)*? For example, "I wonder what happens when the dog, the pig, and the monkey get together late at night in the park?" Or, "I wonder what happens when the duck and the whale get together early in the morning in your bathtub?" Or, "I wonder what happens when the elephant, the hippo, and the giraffe get together during halftime at the Super Bowl?"
2. Once you've created a scenario, the children can tell you what they think would happen. Their story can be as short, as long, or as silly as they want it to be.
3. Option: Write down their stories as they dictate them. They may want to illustrate their story.