

OLD MACDONALD

With all these noises, it might as well be a zoo!

THINK ABOUT . . .

This activity is centered around “Old MacDonald” - a song many children learn early in life. This song is great for learning and labeling farm animals and the sounds they make, but can be particularly valuable for practicing auditory discrimination for your child with hearing loss. Children with hearing loss may miss out on the learning that happens in their environment and not explicitly taught. Using this song will expose them to this vocabulary. It also can be used to practice auditory discrimination or recognizing that sounds are different.



ACTIVITY

- 1- Bring out a toy farm and toy animals for your child to play with. If this is not available, use the pictures attached.
- 2- Introduce your child to the animals and the sounds they make.
- 3- As you sing the song, put the animals in the farm.
- 4- Play with the animals and farm, emphasizing the names of animals and the sounds they make.
- 5- After your child is familiar with the song and the sounds each animal makes, have them differentiate which animal makes what sound. For example, put out a cow toy/picture and say, “which one says ‘moo?’”.
- 6- To make this more challenging, add another object that says something like the farm animal. For example, compare a cow (moo) to a ghost (boo). Say, “which one says ‘moo?’” and have them select the correct option.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Farm (toys or picture)
- Farm animals (toys or pictures)
- YouTube video for the song (optional – see link below)

PREPARATION:

- 1- Collect the toys or print pictures for the activity.
- 2- Be aware of what animals you have and the sounds they would make.
- 3- You’re ready! Have fun singing!

VOCABULARY:

- Cow
- Farm
- Horse
- Dog
- Cat
- Pig
- Sheep
- Chicken

HELPFUL TIPS:

- This song can easily be changed to incorporate different vocabulary. Try substituting your child’s name for “MacDonald” to make it more interesting.
- Remember to get your child to participate expressively too! Have them fill in the name of an animal or the sound they make.
- If your child is already very comfortable with this song, have them make up their own animals and sounds.

Special thanks to graduate students in the Listening and Spoken Language Deaf Education graduate training program at Utah State University. These pages can be reproduced for educational purposes.

©Utah State University, Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education



OLD MACDONALD

SONG

Old MacDonald Song

Old MacDonald had a farm
E-I-E-I-O
And on his farm he had a cow
E-I-E-I-O
With a moo-moo here
And a moo-moo there
Here a moo, there a moo
Everywhere a moo-moo
Old MacDonald had a farm
E-I-E-I-O

Repeat with other animals and their sounds. For example: horse (neigh), pig (oink), dog (bark), cat (meow), sheep (baa), chicken (cluck).

If you are unfamiliar with the song, listen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=foxfzvHyPOo>

or scan this QR code for a direct link.



Print off the farm animals and farm to accompany the song.



