

Hands on Learning: A Day at the Zoo:

<https://blog.ed.gov/2019/09/hands-learning-day-zoo/>



Taking your student to the zoo is a great way to engage with them outside of the classroom and enjoy a hands-on learning experience together.

Use this the guide below to make your trip engaging, educational, and enjoyable.

Before your visit:

- Read a book about your child's favorite animal to learn more about where it lives, what they eat, and what the animal sounds like.
- Watch videos online of the animals in their habitat.
 - Ask your student about what he or she observes

During your Visit:

- Encourage your student to ask the animal keepers questions about the animals.
- Have your child count how many animals are in a habitat.
 - Have them make predictions about why some habitats have several animals and some only have a few.
- Review key vocabulary words to build emerging reading skills. Examples include:
 - Keeper
 - Habitat
 - Species
 - Mammal

- Conservation
- Enclosure
- Endangered

After your visit:

- Ask the student the following questions:
 - What was your favorite animal? Why?
 - What animal surprised you? Why?

- Play an animal walk game where you take turns naming an animal and walking like it. For example, run like a cheetah, slither like a snake, and stomp like an elephant.
- Create a zoo guidebook with pictures and words to describe the different animals that you saw at the zoo.

Parent Pro-Tips

- Plan ahead by looking up the daily programs and the attractions you want to see on the zoo map to make the most of your day.
- Don't be shy: Ask animal keepers and zoo staff questions about the animals.
- Check the zoo's website and download any zoo-provided activity sheets for the kids to do during or after the visit to the zoo.