



**ACTIVITY  
BOOKLET**  
for **toddlers**  
and their families



**theZOO**  
L O U I S V I L L E

# HI! GROWN UPS!

Welcome to the Louisville Zoo! This booklet is full of fun activities to help your child learn and grow while exploring the Zoo. It was designed for grown-ups and children to complete together. Each page has an educational animal-themed activity and a key at the bottom showing which skills your children will be practicing. Follow the map to learn cool animal facts, and practice using some awesome skills. Then, take this booklet home for continued fun and learning!

Enjoy the Louisville Zoo!



## SKILLS KEY

Here's where you'll find the development skills your child will be practicing for each activity.

The *Ages & Stages Questionnaires*® from **Metro United Way** are questionnaires that help parents and caregivers identify a child's strengths and any areas that need encouragement and support. Enroll your child for free and receive a complimentary book at [metrounitedway.org/asq](http://metrounitedway.org/asq).



- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| ATM MACHINE     | FIRST AID          |
| CONCESSIONS     | AED DEFIBRILLATOR  |
| GIFT SHOP       | WATER FOUNTAIN     |
| LOST CHILDREN   | ATTRACTIONS        |
| PHOTOS          | PEPSICO MACHINES   |
| PICNIC AREA     | COVID WALKING PATH |
| RESTROOMS       | BYPASS ROUTES      |
| FAMILY RESTROOM | EXIT ROUTES        |
| SMOKING ZONE    |                    |

# WHERE IS IT?

The HerpAquarium is filled with interesting animals called ectotherms. Ectotherms are animals that need light or heat to change their body temperature. Ectotherms might sit **ON** a rock to warm up or go **UNDER** a log to cool down.

Think about all the places you can go in your home: **IN** your bedroom, **UNDER** your favorite blanket, **ON** the couch and more!

## Try this!

As you explore the HerpAquarium, see where you find all the different ectotherms. Can you find an ectotherm that is sitting on a rock? Is there one hiding under a log?

Where is the frog in the picture?

Great job! The frog is sitting **ON** the leaf!



# THINGS TO DO AT THE ZOO!

## ACTIVITY 1

### PRACTICING SKILLS!

#### Language/ Communication

Understands words like "on," "in" or "under"

Follows simple instructions

ACTIVITY  
2

**PRACTICING  
SKILLS!**

**Language/  
Communication**

4 years old: Hops  
and stands on one  
foot for up to 2  
seconds

5 years old: Stands  
on one foot for 10  
seconds or longer

# BALANCE LIKE A FLAMINGO

Flamingos are known for their brilliant pink plumes, but did you know they can stand on a single slender leg — even when asleep? For flamingos, standing on one leg is easy!

**Try this!**

Watch the flamingos and see if you can stand on one leg as long as they can. How long did you stand on one leg? Did the flamingos stay on one leg longer than you?

Was that too easy? Well, then... Can you stand on one leg and hop at the same time? Try it and see how long you can hop!



# MONKEYING AROUND

Colobus monkeys are fast and are great leapers! They can run up to 30 miles per hour and use tree limbs like a trampoline to jump higher using their powerful legs. They often dive 20 to 30 feet through the treetops, using their hook-shaped hands to move gracefully through the trees. Colobus monkeys swing and climb to escape danger, find food or just have fun!

THINGS TO  
DO AT THE  
**ZOO!**

## Try this!

Have fun playing at the Zoo's accessible playground next to the Colobus monkeys. Pretend you are a Colobus monkey swinging through the African rainforest. How far can you leap? Watch out for a hungry leopard!



## ACTIVITY 3

### PRACTICING SKILLS!

#### Social/Emotional Development

Becoming more  
creative with  
make-believe play

#### Movement/Physical Development

5 years old: Swings  
and climbs

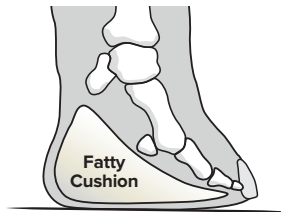


# THINGS TO DO AT THE ZOO!

## QUIET AS AN ELEPHANT

Did you know elephants are the largest land animal? Stop for a moment and watch the elephants move around the yard. Can you hear their footsteps? Can you feel the ground shake under your feet as the elephants walk by?

Elephant feet are different from your feet. Their foot bones rest on a thick layer of fat so they are always standing on their tiptoes!



Elephant



Human

### ACTIVITY 4

#### Try this!

Can you walk on your tiptoes like an elephant?  
Try to walk from the elephant yard all the way to the zebra yard. Let's go!



### PRACTICING SKILLS!

#### Language/ Communication

Follows simple instructions

#### Movement/Physical Development

2 years old: Can stand on tiptoes

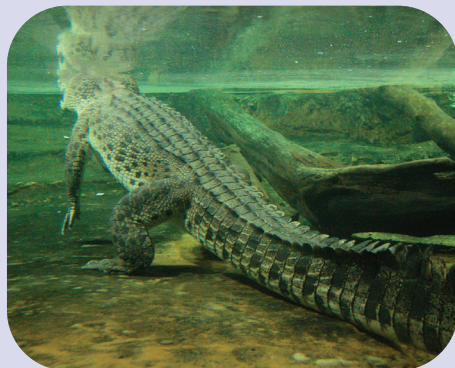
# ANIMAL MOVES

Did you have fun at the Zoo? What was your favorite animal? Can you remember how it moved? Did it walk, climb, jump, fly or swim?

Every animal moves in a way that helps it survive. Rabbits have long, strong hind legs to help them run fast and jump high. Bald eagles have wide wingspans so they can soar in the sky looking for food. Crocodiles use their long powerful tails to swim quickly through the water when hunting.

## Try this!

Can you move like an animal? Have someone help you create an obstacle course of things around the house so you can move like your favorite animal. Can you climb, slither, roll or hop through the course?



## ACTIVITY 1

### PRACTICING SKILLS!

#### Social/Emotional Skills

Copies others

#### Movement/Physical Development

3 years old: Climbs  
and runs

# HIDE AND SEEK

While you were at the Zoo, did you see any of the Zoo animals playing with boxes or paper? Our zookeepers give our animals enrichment items. Enrichment items are things animals use and play with to practice using their natural senses.

Look at our grizzly bear, Inga, in the picture below. She is practicing using her strong sense of smell — and her big claws — to find her food hidden in the boxes!

## ACTIVITY 2

### Try this!

Can you be like our grizzly bears and find a hidden item? Ask someone to hide something while you aren't looking, like a toy or a snack. Then, see if you can find it!



### PRACTICING SKILLS!

#### Cognitive Skills

2 years old: Finds things even when hidden under two or three covers





# BIRD BEAKS

Birds use their beaks for many jobs — to weave nests, defend their territory, groom feathers, communicate — but most importantly, to gather or capture food. Let's pretend we're birds and see how well we can collect different types of food using different beak shapes!

## Try this!

Place a few rubber bands on a flat surface. These are your worms! Pretend you are a robin with a pointed beak. Using just your index finger and thumb, how many rubber bands can you pick up in 10 seconds?

Next, pretend you are a pelican with a big throat pouch attached to your beak. Cup your hand like you're trying to hold water in it. Now try to pick up the rubber bands.

Which was easier? Robins' pointed beaks are better at picking up worms than a pelican! Robins eat worms, insects and seeds. Pelicans eat fish, so their throat pouch acts like a fishing net. Next time you see a bird, look at its beak and guess what kind of food it eats!



THINGS  
TO DO AT  
HOME!

## ACTIVITY 3

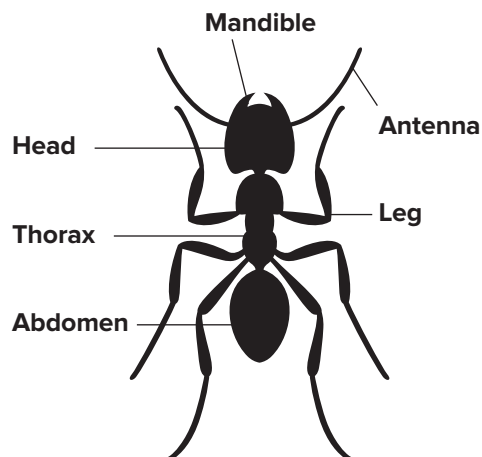
### PRACTICING SKILLS!

**Language Skills**  
Follows instructions  
with 2 or 3 steps

# THINGS TO DO AT HOME!

## ANTS HAVE ANTENNAS. DO YOU?

Let's talk about ants. Ants are insects. Insects are animals that have 6 legs. They have a 3-part body that is made up of a head, thorax and abdomen. They also have 2 antennae, which they use for smelling and feeling, and a mandible, which is their mouth!



### ACTIVITY 4

#### Try this!

Now that you know a little more about the body parts of an ant, let's see if you can find different parts of your body.

1. An ant has antennae for smelling. What do you use for smelling?

**Point to it!**

2. Ants have 6 legs for walking. How many legs do you have?

**Count them!**

3. What body parts do you and an ant both have?

**Name one!**

4. What's a body part that an ant has but you do not have?

**Circle one on the ant picture!**

### PRACTICING SKILLS!

#### General Knowledge

Notices similarity  
and differences

