45007 **Large Farm**

Five Ideas for Exploring Math
Age: 3-5 ✹ For 2-4 children

Tip

You can extend many of these math activities by combining the Large Farm Set with other animal manipulatives.
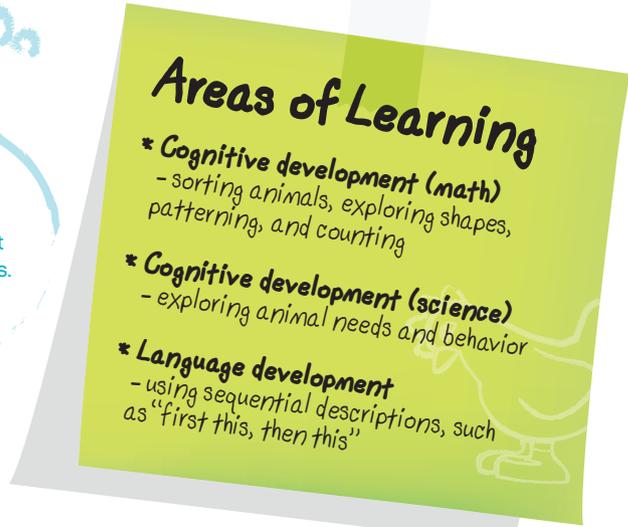
Areas of Learning

* **Cognitive development (math)**
  – sorting animals, exploring shapes, patterning, and counting

* **Cognitive development (science)**
  – exploring animal needs and behavior

* **Language development**
  – using sequential descriptions, such as "first this, then this"

5 Ideas:

✹ Prompt the children to sort the animals based on one or more characteristic, then count how many animals are in each group. You can repeat this activity, sorting by different characteristics (for example, number of legs, colors, where they live, or what they eat).

✹ Encourage the children to talk about all the events in a farmer's day. Then prompt the children to sequence these events. Have them role-play the farmer's day, and be sure to talk about what happens in the beginning, middle, and end of the day.

✹ All of the animals have escaped! Prompt the children to help the farmer build enclosures for all of them. After building, ask the children to determine the shape of the enclosures. Invite the children to make alternatively shaped enclosures.

✹ Encourage the children to explore addition using the farm animals. Pretend that the farmer is bringing new animals to the farm. Have the children count to find out how many there are altogether.

✹ The farm animals want to put on a parade. Encourage the children to build a parade float and line the animals up in a pattern. The pattern can be simple or complex, depending on the children's age and ability.

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