

Resource pack for teachers EYFS and Key Stage 1 Activities

Created by Macmillan Children's Books and Geraldine Taylor MA, Educational Consultant

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A note to teachers:

Macmillan Children's Books has created this pack as a professional resource for teachers of early years and key stage one. It's full of opportunities for vibrant learning and understanding around a familiar, well-loved story: *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell, which has been adapted by the author for the stage.

Alongside a trip to see the show, this education pack contains all the ingredients to encourage the expressive arts, imaginative play, stories and drama. Encourage children to dress up as animals or use animal toys or puppets, and make their own play based on this exciting story.

Nothing, as we know, succeeds to boost learning as much as talking about and pretending to be animals. This pack is bursting with ideas and concepts to encourage curiosity, imagination and hand-eye skills: the foundation of our literacy and learning. Your skilled questioning about the animals, what they are like and where they live in the wild will develop a scientific understanding and there are shapes and sizes to compare which will enhance maths vocabulary.

As each child chooses their own favourite among the animals, what would they actually need in order to look after them? What do they eat? Where do they normally live? Where do they sleep? Do they like human companionship? It's a rewarding opportunity to talk about responsibility for animals and to develop vocabulary and problem solving.

Geraldine Taylor MA, Educational Consultant





Before the play

Introduce your class to the animals in Dear Zoo



What moises do you think they might make?

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How might you behave if you were pretending to be a lion? Or an elephant? Or a frog? Try them all! Maybe you could turn your classroom into a zoo while you act out each animal. Do you think the different animals would get on well with each other?

Which pet do you think you would choose?



Colouring

Giraffe uses his long neck to reach the leaves.





Drawing and colouring

This jumpy frog is sitting on a lily pad on the pond. Draw lots of fish in the pond then colour it in.





Now count up your fish. How many are there?





Frog is **green**

Write down or draw some other green things:





Elephant's crate is **yellow**

Write down or draw some other yellow things:









Camel's crate is **blue**

Write down or draw some other blue things:





Snake's basket is **orange**

Write down or draw some other orange things:



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Numbers

Dot-to-dot giraffe

Join the dots following the numbers from 1 to 24 to find out who is hiding. After you have joined the dots, you could colour your picture.







After the play

Here are some questions you could ask your class after they have seen the play:

Now you've seen the play, which pet would you choose? Is it the same pet that you chose before you saw the play?



In the play, each of the animals says a few lines about themseves. Elephant says:

> "Yes, I'm an elephant, the biggest beast of all. I'm so big and heavy, you wouldn't say I'm small!"



Why not choose one of the characters and make up a few lines for them? Then try to speak them in the way your animal might speak!



You could even try putting on a Dear Zoo play of your own! There is a template for a lion mask included in this pack, but you could make simple masks for the other animals in the same way.

The next few pages have some word-based exercises that will encourage children to think about other ways to describe each animal. Once they've seen the play, perhaps they will think of the animals in different ways.



Describing words

Giraffe was **too tall** Can you say or write other words to talk about what a giraffe is like?





Describing words

Lion was **too fierce** Can you say or write other words to talk about what a lion is like?





Dear Zoo © Rod Campbell 1982, 2007 Published by Macmillan Children's Books

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Describing words

Camel was **too grumpy** Can you say or write other words to talk about what a camel is like?



Colour me in!



Picture crossword

Put the animals' names in the squares of the puzzle.





Letter writing

Write a letter to the zoo asking them to send you a pet.



How would you look after your pet?



Follow the instructions below to make this **lion mask.**

While you wear it, try prancing like a proud lion. Can you roar like one too? What does it feel like to be a lion? Pretend to be the other animals too.





Dear Zoo®

The timeless children's classic returns to the stage!

This production will delight all those who have read the book (both young and old) as it unfolds with engaging puppets, music and lots of audience interaction.



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