

Dear Zoo

**A music-based learning
resource pack for families**

Our musicians have come up with some creative ideas, songs and rhymes that you can do to bring the story 'Dear Zoo' to life. We have tried to cater for as many families as possible, so some of these activities are aimed at very young children, and some are aimed at slightly older children. These are only ideas, so feel free to pick the bits you like, change activities to suit you and add in anything that you think we have missed!

Most importantly, try not to worry about the music making – the interaction and communication with your child, encouraged by these ideas, is far more important than whether you sing the songs note perfect! Also, don't feel bad for repeating the same handful of songs that you feel confident with – repetition and familiarity are great at this stage and will encourage your child to join in at their own level – whether that be with speech, vocalisation and noises or physical gestures. Try repeating the activities at different speeds and with different voices to add variety.

We would love to see how you are using our resource pack – please tag us on social media using the details below.

Instagram - @wearedarts

Facebook - @wearedarts

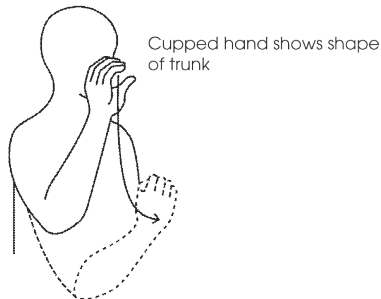
Twitter - @we_aredarts



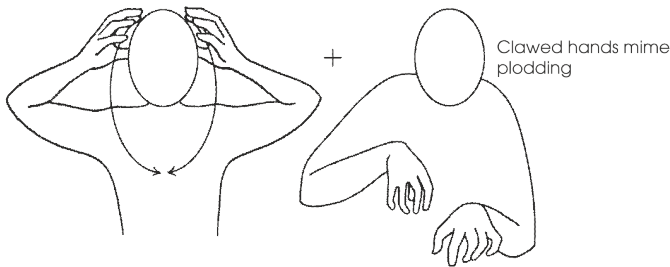
Makaton

We are huge fans of Makaton here at darts and we like to incorporate Makaton into songs and stories wherever we can – especially when working with our young learners. We don't want to overload you with too many signs, but here are a few key signs to try at home.

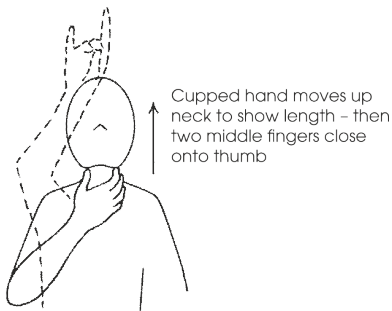
This pack uses symbols and signs from the communication aid Makaton. Makaton symbols and signs are copyright by and used with kind permission of The Makaton Charity. For more information about Makaton, please visit www.makaton.org



Elephant

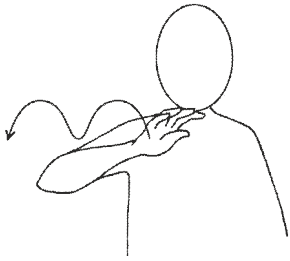


Lion

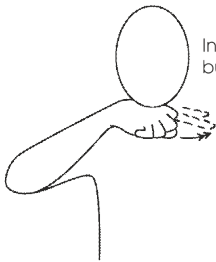


Giraffe



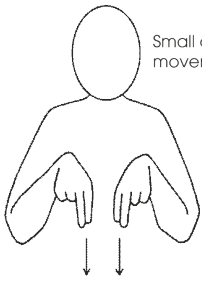


Camel



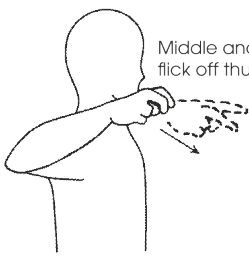
Index and middle fingers
burst open - repeat

Frog



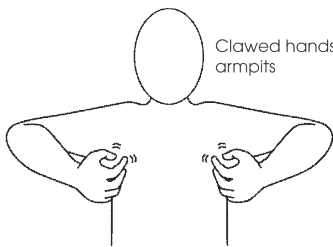
Small downward
movement of hands

Dog



Middle and index fingers
flick off thumb making a 'V'

Snake



Clawed hands scratch
armpits

Monkey



An Elephant Goes Like This and Like That

A fun action rhyme. With tiny tots, we'd do this with them sitting on our knee, but older children can easily do this with you, standing up.

An elephant goes like this and like that
(move from side to side like elephant foot stomps)

He's terribly big and he's terribly fat
(show how tall and how wide the elephant is with arms)

He has no fingers and he has no toes
(wiggle fingers, point at feet)

But oh my goodness, oh what a big nose!
(elephant trunk action)



Mary had a big giraffe

Here are some suggestions to get you started, but see how many others you can come up with!

Mary had a little lamb, little lamb, little lamb,
Mary had a little lamb his fleece was white as snow

Mary had a big giraffe, big giraffe, big giraffe,
Mary had a big giraffe whose neck was very long.

Mary had a kangaroo, kangaroo, kangaroo,
Mary had a kangaroo whose pouch was very warm.

Mary had a mighty lion, mighty lion, mighty lion,
Mary had a mighty lion whose roar was very loud

Elephant / trunk / long
Bumpy camel / hump / round
Rhinoceros / horn / sharp



Alice the Camel

An oldie, but a goodie! A simple counting song that practises counting backwards from 5 to 1. Practise holding up the right number of fingers for each verse. If you don't know the tune for this song, we've included a YouTube version here:

<https://youtu.be/Swj8MHID5tA>

Alice the camel has 5 humps
Alice the camel has 5 humps
Alice the camel has 5 humps
So go, Alice go!

Alice the camel has 4 humps
Alice the camel has 4 humps
Alice the camel has 4 humps
So go, Alice go!

Alice the camel has 3 humps
Alice the camel has 3 humps
Alice the camel has 3 humps
So go, Alice go!

Alice the camel has 2 humps
Alice the camel has 2 humps
Alice the camel has 2 humps
So go, Alice go!

Alice the camel has 1 humps
Alice the camel has 1 humps
Alice the camel has 1 humps
So go, Alice go!

Alice the camel has no humps
Alice the camel has no humps
Alice the camel has no humps
Because Alice is a horse!



Silly, Slippery Snake

Really simple – sing to the tune of 'If you're happy and you know it'. Feel free to add in the snake sounds at the end of line 1,2 and 5!

Oh, I wish I was a silly, slippery snake (sss sss)
Oh, I wish I was a silly, slippery snake (sss sss)
Oh, I'd slither across the floor
And I'd slip under the door
Oh, I'd rather be a silly, slippery snake (sss sss)



5 Little Monkeys

A brilliant action rhyme that includes counting, actions and using different voices. We like to use a huge crocodile hand puppet to snap at the monkeys, but you can do it with your hands too!

Try waiting different lengths of time before doing the 'snap' – we sometimes drag the oooooohhhhhh sound out or make it really short, so the children start to watch and listen for the snap.

Disclaimer: if you have very sensitive tiny tots, they may not like the idea of the monkeys all getting eaten. If this is the case, we've seen this game done where the leader makes the crocodile cough dramatically at the end and all the monkeys escape...

5 little monkeys, swinging in a tree
(hold up 5 fingers and sway hand from side to side)
Along comes a crocodile, as quiet as can be
(make a crocodile with your other hand)
'Hey, Mr Crocodile, you can't catch me'
(cheeky monkey voice, swing hand side to side)
Oooohhhhhh.....SNAP!
(keep crocodile mouth open until the snap)

4 little monkeys, swinging in a tree
Along comes a crocodile, as quiet as can be
'Hey, Mr Crocodile, you can't catch me'
Oooohhhhhh.....SNAP!

3 little monkeys, swinging in a tree
Along comes a crocodile, as quiet as can be
'Hey, Mr Crocodile, you can't catch me'
Oooohhhhhh.....SNAP!

2 little monkeys, swinging in a tree
Along comes a crocodile, as quiet as can be
'Hey, Mr Crocodile, you can't catch me'
Oooohhhhhh.....SNAP!

1 little monkey, swinging in a tree
Along comes a crocodile, as quiet as can be
'Hey, Mr Crocodile, you can't catch me'
Oooohhhhhh.....SNAP!



Five Little Speckled Frogs

Another one that you may already know!

5 little speckled frogs
Sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious grubs (yum yum)
One jumped in to the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Then there were 4 green speckled frogs

4 little speckled frogs
Sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious grubs (yum yum)
One jumped in to the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Then there were 3 green speckled frogs

3 little speckled frogs
Sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious grubs (yum yum)
One jumped in to the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Then there were 2 green speckled frogs

2 little speckled frogs
Sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious grubs (yum yum)
One jumped in to the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Then there was 1 green speckled frogs

1 little speckled frog
Sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious grubs (yum yum)
One jumped in to the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Then there were no green speckled frogs



B-I-N-G-O

A great song for older children. This is a really popular kids' song, but in case you need a reminder of the tune to sing it to, here is a YouTube link:

<https://youtu.be/oS8ILJISg9A>

Feel free to add a 'woof' instead of the clap in verses 2-6.

There was a farmer, had a dog
Bingo was his name, oh
B - I - N - G - O
B - I - N - G - O
B - I - N - G - O
Bingo was his name, oh.

There was a farmer, had a dog
Bingo was his name, oh
(clap) - I - N - G - O
(clap) - I - N - G - O
(clap) - I - N - G - O
Bingo was his name, oh.

There was a farmer, had a dog
Bingo was his name, oh
(clap) - (clap) - N - G - O
(clap) - (clap) - N - G - O
(clap) - (clap) - N - G - O
Bingo was his name, oh.

There was a farmer, had a dog
Bingo was his name, oh
(clap) - (clap) - (clap) - G - O
(clap) - (clap) - (clap) - G - O
(clap) - (clap) - (clap) - G - O
Bingo was his name, oh.

There was a farmer, had a dog
Bingo was his name, oh
(clap) - (clap) - (clap) - (clap) - O
(clap) - (clap) - (clap) - (clap) - O
(clap) - (clap) - (clap) - (clap) - O
Bingo was his name, oh.



There was a farmer, had a dog
Bingo was his name, oh
(clap) - (clap) - (clap) - (clap) - (clap)
(clap) - (clap) - (clap) - (clap) - (clap)
(clap) - (clap) - (clap) - (clap) - (clap)
Bingo was his name, oh.



Websites, resources and links

All of these YouTube links and websites were checked at the time of writing, but we advise that you please watch them yourself to check that they are still child-friendly.

Dear Zoo read with Makaton signs by Justin Fletcher (Mr Tumble)

<https://youtu.be/UywEnHKTMXk>

Alice The Camel

<https://youtu.be/Swj8MHID5tA>

B-I-N-G-O

<https://youtu.be/oS8ILJISg9A>

San Diego Zoo – live cams (watch out for the time difference!)

<https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams>

Edinburgh Zoo – live cams (including Panda Cam)

<https://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/webcams/panda-cam/#pandacam>

Chester Zoo learning resources

<https://www.chesterzoo.org/schools/resources/?search=&types=at-home>

