

# Farm Friends Floor Puzzle

## What should be included:

- 12 piece puzzle
- Tunnel
- Playdough
- Food mats
- Barrel of monkeys
- Rhyming pictures
- Book – *If You Give A Dog A Donut*

## Play Plan:

Begin by looking at the picture of the completed puzzle and talk with your child about the different animals you see in the picture, as well as, colors and other details that might help your child be able to construct the puzzle.

- Lay out all the pieces of the puzzle where your child is able to see all of the pieces at the same time (this is important when your child is learning to “compare” what he/she sees on one piece to what is on another piece). It is easiest to work a puzzle, by starting with a piece of the border because of its straight edge – a corner is even better 😊! When you have picked the starting piece then talk about what you see on the piece and see if you can find another piece with similar details and try putting them together. Looking at the picture of the completed puzzle often helps your child to know other details he/she can be looking for on a piece. Continue with this process until you have all 12 pieces put together.

## Book Activity:

Read the book *If You Give A Dog A Donut*. Talk about how this book just continues to go around and around because one thing always makes the dog think of something else.

- **Donut Math**
  - Choose “donut” mat and read the number on it. This number will tell you how many **sprinkles** to put on it. Take your playdough and make sprinkles to put on your donut.
  - When your child has put the correct number of sprinkles on his/her donut then give your child a number and have him/her pick up only that many of the sprinkles off of the donut. Then ask your child to count how many sprinkles are still on his/her donut. Example: If the donut has **six** sprinkles on it have your child **take off four** and then count how many are left. Then say yes that

means that if you have 2 of something and then got 4 more you would have 6 altogether.

**\*Putting different groups of numbers together to make a new number is something that your child will be working on in Kindergarten.**

## **Big Body Movement:**

- **Tunnel Puzzle**

- Take the puzzle pieces turn them over and looking at the numbers on the back of each piece stack them in order from 12 -1 or 1-12.
- Then take the stack of puzzle pieces and sit at one end of the tunnel, give your child one piece of the puzzle at a time (in numerical order), have him/her take the piece and crawl through the tunnel and place it on the floor (placing each of the following pieces correctly to the previous pieces to complete the puzzle) at the other end of the tunnel. Then have your child crawl back through the tunnel or do some other movement (hop, skip, crab walk, etc.) back from one end of the tunnel back to you. Continue this process until the puzzle is complete at the other end of the tunnel (the numbers on the back ensure that the piece you give your child will fit onto the pieces that are already in place).
- If you had the stack of puzzle pieces stacked from 1- 12 the first time then stack them from 12-1 the next time (starts your child working the puzzle from a different area of the puzzle)

- **Rhyming Monkeys**

- **Before you begin this activity** - help your child understand what we mean when we say two words **RHyme**. Tell them that rhyming words are words with the same **ENDING SOUND** and then give them some examples (cat/bat – they both end with the sound “at”, top/hop – they both end with the sound “op”, boy/toy – they both end with the sound “oy”, etc.).
- Place the Rhyming pictures around the play area and next to each picture place one monkey.
- Have your child pick a Rhyming picture and monkey to stand next to and then have him/her say the name of the picture. At this time, you say a word and ask your child if it rhymes with the picture (Repeat the word you say and the name of the picture so your child can hear the two words together). \*Help your child to learn what he/she is listening for when words rhyme.
- Have your child pick up the monkey and walk to another rhyming picture and monkey. Repeat this process until your child has all the monkeys chained together 😊.

\*The visual and auditory skills practiced in these activities will be very important as your child begins to look for the difference in letters and words and hear the differences in sounds the letters and combination of letters make – which will be skills your child will be working on in Kindergarten.

These are just a few suggestions. A child learns best through play and hands on experiences, feel free to be CREATIVE and have FUN 😊!