

Dramatic Play Plan

Zoo

MATERIALS

- ✓ Zoo Animals (plastic animals)
- ✓ Camera
- ✓ Bucket
- ✓ Scooper
- ✓ Food bowls
- ✓ Blocks to build cages*
- ✓ Towels for bath
- ✓ Binoculars
- ✓ Ticket Booth (table with sign)*
- ✓ Cash Register
- ✓ Tickets
- ✓ Food for Concession Stand
- ✓ First aid kit (for animals)

*=Not provided.
Use your imagination.

SETUP

1. Set up an area for the animals and build the pens and cages for the animals
2. Use table as a ticket booth/concession stand
3. Make signs and tickets for the zoo

ROLES:

- Zookeeper
- Visitors
- Ticket Sellers

Intro: "Once upon a time there was an enormous zoo filled with animals from all over the world. Every day, hundreds of people came to visit to learn about all of the different kinds of animals. Visitors got to see the animals get fed and taken care of, play with the other animals, and sometimes even put on shows. It is important that the animals are well taken care of and that their cages feel as much like home as possible so that they don't get sick. But if the animals do get sick, the zookeepers take care of them and give them medicine to help them feel better."

Today we are going to the zoo! We are going to watch the zookeeper feed the animals, give them baths, clean their cages and help them feel better when they are sick. The zoo visitors come to the zoo to see and learn all about the different types of animals and the ticket sellers sell tickets and food to the visitors."

ACTIVITY 1 - BRAINSTORM

Discuss some of the different animals that are at the zoo and where they come from. Share personal experiences at the zoo or with animals.

- What kind of animals can you see at the zoo?
- Where do all of these animals come from?
- Has anyone ever been to the San Diego zoo?
- What did you see and do there?
- What's your favorite animals? Let's learn all that we can about them

ACTIVITY 2 - SETTING UP THE ZOO

- Build cages for the animals
- Buy tickets to get into the zoo from the ticket sellers
- Buy snacks from the ticket seller for the visitors and for the animals
- EXPANSION: What kind of food do you think elephants eat? How do they eat it if they don't have hands?"
- Use binoculars to see far away animals
- Take pictures and read about animals in the zoo.

ACTIVITY 3 - ZOO KEEPING/TAKING CARE OF ANIMALS

Zookeeper:

- Cleans the animal cages
- Feeds the animals
- Teaches the visitors about the different animals and what they like to do and eat
- Take care of animals when they are sick
- EXPANSION: "That lion won't get up. What do you think is wrong with him? What can we do to help?"