



Storytime Activity Guide

Open the Barn Door

by Christopher Santoro

Take a trip to the farm and enjoy the animal sights and sounds! Lift the flaps and discover who is hiding in the barnyard.

Did you know?

Having a large **vocabulary** helps children express themselves, learn new words and new concepts quickly. You can build vocabulary skills by talking about what you see in *Open the Barn Door*. Practice saying the words out loud and see if you have a memory or experience that is related to the new word!

Talk about it!

Pictures books are excellent tools to develop your child's vocabulary. Point to and name the animals when they appear on the page. Talk about what you see. Name colors, shapes, objects that appear in the book and encourage your child to repeat after you.

Play: (activity with no materials)

Sing your favorites! Listening to music and singing songs are excellent ways of developing your child's early literacy skills. Songs introduce children to new vocabulary. New words can also be easier to learn when rhyming, repetition and actions are part of the activity. When you repeat songs, children become familiar with them and learn the words from a very young age. Repetition also strengthens connections in your child's developing brain!

Find More Online

Scan this QR code to find book recommendations, online activity guides, and other fun resources.



qrcode.de/learnathome

Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to see our Read Aloud of this book!



qrcode.de/OpenBarn

Create: Animal Sounds Mystery Bag

- Materials needed:**
- one drawstring bag or empty box (not clear or see-through)
 - Assorted animal toys

1. Place the animal toys in your bag or box.

2. Ask your child to pull out an animal.

3. As they choose each animal, say the name of the animal. Practice making its sound together. Invite your child to repeat the animal name and sound after you.

Want to extend this activity?

- Try adding animal movements to the game! As each animal is chosen, say its name, make its sound, and include a movement. Ask your child to repeat after you.
- Match the toy animals from the bag or box with animals in a book. If you have old magazines available, find images of these animals and cut them out. Compare them to the toys as you play.

