



## OLD MCDONALDS FARM

### Materials you need:

- A collection of soft or plastic farm animals (try and use ones that look close to the real thing!)
- Books with pictures of real farms and farm animals

### Setup for play:

- Sit down together and give each baby and toddler a farm animal, say the name and make the sound that matches (as best you can!)
- As the children each take an animal to hold repeat the name and sound again.
- Sing Old McDonalds Farm together and as you come to each animal encourage the children with matching animal to make it move as everyone makes the sound of that animal. If you are doing this activity mainly with babies, then pick up the matching animal and move it yourself as you sing.
- You can also do this activity using felt puppets or hand puppets.

### What are they learning with this activity?

As the children handle the animals and make sounds they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills
- Develop new vocabulary and language skills
- Use their imagination
- Recognise symbols and how things can represent other things
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Listen and respond to sounds and patterns in music and speech
- Re-enact well known stories
- Use language and sound to communicate their thinking
- Express emotions and use gestures.