

# My Daisy Days™

## ACTIVITES FOR VOLUME 3

### Daisy Goes to the Zoo

There will be many familiar and many possibly new animals Daisy encounters in her adventure at the Zoo. Take a pencil and paper and write down all the animals your "Daisy" expects to encounter at the zoo, then watch the DVD and compare the list with the actual animals. (You have used comparisons before, here's a good place to reinforce the concept.)

Zoos provide spaces for their animals. Collect unused shoe boxes and help your "Daisy" create small zoo environments for a few animals. If you have on hand several "zoo" plastic or rubber animals, all the better. Use bits and pieces from nature as part of the construction of their habitats. Use play dough or clay on the floor of the boxes so trees and rocks can stay in place. These shoe box homes can be played with for long periods of time, and can be refurbished frequently as you locate a special pinecone or a different stone.

Read several of the Zoo books recommended. Remember to show the cover and tell the title and let your youngster guess what the story will be about.

Your youngster may know a zoo already, but if not, this is a wonderful introduction and hopefully some day you can have an adventure at a zoo. To make animals out of clay or play dough could become part of this experience — provide the materials, and let your child mold and pull and create. (These handmade animals might love to have a shoe box home.)

There are many different kinds of animals Daisy visits when at the zoo. Some are large, some are small, and each has its own distinctive coloring, just as people have. What a great place to begin to talk about diversity, differences, equality.

Visiting a zoo lends itself to conversation about what animals can be household pets, and what animals should not live in people's homes. Whenever you ask a question of a child be sure it cannot be answered with either "Yes" or "No" — but rather takes some thinking on the part of the child to respond.

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## Daisy Watches Big Trucks

Each of the huge machines has an important job it is doing. If a small dump truck or other machine is available, put sand or dirt into a large pan (unless you have a sand box nearby) and let your "Daisy" do her road work. As you talk about the machinery being used you add new words to your child's vocabulary, along with new information.

Write down a dictated story and reread it to "Daisy". If knowing how to start the story is difficult, give a few hints such as asking what the man is doing in the cab of the huge truck? How do the trucks move around — do they have regular looking tires?

After watching "Daisy Watches Big Trucks" it is the perfect time to paint with a variety of small truck wheels. Pour paint into a tray, have your youngster roll a truck through the paint and then roll it onto a large sheet of paper or a piece of cloth. Count the tracks the truck makes — ask if each of the wheels makes a track? If not, why not?

The chosen books for this episode of Daisy have some amazing pictures. Look at them carefully with your child, point out the windshields, the hard hats the workers wear, and any other details that your child notices.

## Daisy's Winter Playdate

Not every child knows about a playdate — when Daisy romps and enjoys the companionship of a little child and then of another dog, just as children enjoy playing with other kids, Daisy is having a playdate. What do doggies do that may be the same as little children? This might be the beginning page of your child's story about winter and playdates.

Many children recognize a frozen lake and have slipped and slid on one, but if this is a new experience create an ice tray and let the child play with it. Compare what happens to water when it is frozen — it is hard, not liquid — how else can you and your child talk about ice? Sledding is introduced on this frozen lake. If you live in a warm climate, you can replicate a sled ride by

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using a large tray for the child to sit on, and which can be moved along on a lawn. Pretending is wonderful!

Most children will recognize that it is a holiday time and that there are presents for the little girl as well as for Daisy. Use colored pages from the newspaper and you and your child can wrap up many of the child's own toys. Wrapping is great fun, and unwrapping even more.

This is a great time to add musical instruments and sing along with a record. "Daisy" might bark along with the music rather than using words.