

# Toddler Language: Shadow Box Animal Names and Sounds

## Learning Value:

This activity promotes development and learning by encouraging children to understand and use a growing vocabulary.

## Materials Needed:

- ▶ Box
- ▶ Flashlight
- ▶ Light colored wall or light color sheet hanging on the wall
- ▶ Craft sticks (optional)
- ▶ Small stuffed animals or play animals (If you don't have either, you can print animal shapes and cut them out. Children can hold them, or you can attach them to a craft stick to hold.)

## Participants:

This activity is intended for adult/child interaction.

## Directions:

**Step 1:** Place an open box on its side and cut out a hole through the bottom of the box, close to the floor, big enough for the flashlight to shine through.

**Step 2:** Place the box with the flashlight turned on facing the light colored wall or sheet. Turn the lights in the room off. (A darker room makes better shadows but it is fine to have some light so you can move safely.)

**Step 3:** Place the animals in front of the light so the animals shadow can be seen on the wall. Ask your child if they know the name of the animals. Give them some time before you answer with the name of the animals. Ask your child what sound the animal makes. Pause again and allow your child to process as they play before you make the animal sounds.

**Extension:** You can add different props to extend this play. A small box could become a barn, or a house. Add cars or nature items like sticks or grass.