

VIRTUAL BACKPACK





FIVE SILLY SENSES

We see, hear, touch, taste, and smell the world through our senses and so do animals! As you visit the zoo with this backpack, you'll use your five senses to explore like animals.

A packing list has been provided to make sure you bring all you need to complete this backpack.

ACTIVITIES:

- Deer Ears
- Sound Mapping
- Story Time
- I-Spy
- Snack Taste Test
- Animal Coverings

PACKING LIST:

- Animal Coverings Scavenger Hunt (print at home)
- Blank Sheets of Paper
- Crayons
- Snack
- Story Book



AT THE ZOO: Deer Ears

Time: 5 minutes

Materials: Two toilet paper tubes (or one paper towel tube cut in half), stapler or tape, crayons, string

Instructions:

1. Deer, and other hoof stock like the gazelles on the African Savanna, rely on their sense of sound to help them stay safe. What do you notice about the size and shape of deer ears?
2. Cup your hands behind your ears. How does it change what you hear?
3. Now try moving your hands around your ears at different angles and shapes, turning them forwards or backwards just like a deer's ear. How does this change what you hear?
4. Spend some time pretending to be deer listening for the sounds all around them.



You and your child will pretend to be deer and use your hands to mimic the shape and size of their ears.





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AT THE ZOO: Sound Mapping

By pausing and listening, you and your child will create a map of the sounds around you understanding the ways in which animals use hearing for survival.

Time: 10 minutes • Materials: Piece of paper, crayon

Instructions:

1. Find a spot in the zoo where you can sit comfortably and hear a wide range of natural noises. You and your child are going to try to learn all you can about the area around you using just your sense of hearing.
 - a. What do you think you might learn just by listening?
2. Take out your piece of paper and crayon. Put an "x" in the middle of the paper to mark your spot.
3. Now, close your eyes and listen for one minute. Encourage your child to notice the direction the sounds are coming from. Are they moving or still? Are they on your right side or your left side? Are they in front of you or even above you?
4. Open your eyes and you and your child can mark on your piece of paper where you heard each sound.
5. You can save your map or close your eyes again and listen even more.

AT THE ZOO: Story Time

Time: 10 minutes • Materials: Story Book

Pack a book from home and spend some time in a cozy corner of the zoo reading together.



Instructions:

1. Find a cozy spot at the zoo to sit and pull out the story book you packed for your trip.
2. Read the story together taking turns sounding out words, reading pages and looking at the illustrations.
3. As you read ask questions such as:
 - a. What do you think is going to happen next?
 - b. How would you feel if that happened to you?
 - c. Can you find something hidden or an animal in the photo?



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AT THE ZOO: I-Spy

You and your child will practice your skill of visual observation in this game.

Time: Throughout Your Visit • Materials: None

Instructions:

1. As you walk around the zoo play a quick game of I-Spy with your child.
2. Select a specific thing you see or a category of things (e.g., I spy things that are green).
3. Allow your child to guess what you see and switch roles once they have got it right!

AT THE ZOO: Snack Taste Test

Time: 15 minutes • Materials: Snack

Instructions:

1. Find a space to sit down for snack.
2. Before taking your first bite ask your child to look hard at their snack.
What do they notice?
3. Then have your child smell their snack. What do they smell?
4. The sense of taste and smell are very connected. Have your child plug their nose and take a first bite of their snack.
5. Now, have them unplug their nose and take another bite. What was different about the two bites of food? Can you describe what each bite tasted like?
6. Your child can continue experimenting with the same snack or try this with a different snack.

Taste and smell go together like peanut butter and jelly. You and your child will explore the connection of these two senses at snack time.





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AT THE ZOO: Animal Coverings Scavenger Hunt

Fur, feathers, skin and scales! As you walk around the zoo can you find examples of all of these types of animal coverings?

Time: Throughout your visit • Materials: Animal Coverings Scavenger Hunt sheet, crayon

Instructions:

1. Pull out the scavenger hunt sheet and with your child read through all of the different animal coverings.
 - a. Do you have a pet at home? What kind of covering do they have?
2. As you walk around the zoo try to find each of the different types of animal coverings. You can check off the box, write down the name of the animal you found or draw a picture.
3. Each time you see a different animal covering ask your child:
 - a. What does the covering look like?
 - b. What do you think that animal would feel like?
 - c. Why do you think that animal has scales/fur/skin/feathers/etc.?
 - d. What type of covering do YOU have?



SCALES	FUR	FEATHERS
SKIN	SHELLS	SLIME