



Playing Pack



Early literacy tip:

Dramatic **play** is fun and gives children a new way to experience stories. Research shows that interacting with a book in a fun way connects children to the text and grows strong future readers.

Books:

- *Girls and Boys Come Out to Play* by Tracey Pearson Campbell
- *Tap the Magic Tree* by Christie Matheson
- *Harold & Hog Pretend for Real!* by Dan Santat

Activities:

- Wooden Rainbow Stacker
- Natural World Figurine Set

Suggestions for how to interact with these books and activities:

- Build a habitat for the animal figurines using the wooden rainbow blocks. Turn the blocks on their side to create animal enclosures or set them up like bridges and take turns walking the animals across the top. Have fun talking about the world you're building and let your child's imagination run wild.
- Practice sorting the animals into different groups using the different colored rainbow blocks. You can say things like "put all of the animals with four legs underneath the red rainbow block" or "put all of the green animals under the green block." Talk to your child about why some animals do not belong in certain groups. This is a great opportunity to help your child connect words with objects while having fun!
- Read *Harold & Hog Pretend for Real*. Then select two animal figurines to represent the two main characters, Elephant and Piggie. Read the story a second time as you act it out; use the two animals you selected to talk out the dialog bubbles as you go through each page.





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- *Tap the Magic Tree* is a perfect book for encouraging your child to interact with the words on the page. Model clapping, blowing, or pushing on the illustrations as you encourage your child to follow the author's directions before turning each page.

Practice at home:

Playing pretend is a great way to nourish your child's imagination. After you read a story, try to act it out a second time from memory. You could play dress up or speak in silly voices to add to the fun. Retelling the events of a story also helps build sequencing skills that grow early readers.



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