



Animal Actions

MOVE
PLAY &
LEARN

Age 18 months and older

Materials Imagination

Setting A wide-open space for moving

Description Young children love to pretend, especially to be their favorite animals. “Let’s jump like a frog!” or “Let’s slither like a snake!” Think of all the fun and different ways animals can move (hop like a bunny, strut like a turkey, fly like a bird, walk like a crab) and have some fun. Help to get the action started with visuals such as stuffed animals, small animal figurines, or photos of animals and/or modeling the action and sound of the animal. You can even find a park where there ARE frogs, so they can see the frog hop and try to imitate it!

Learning Outcomes

Approaches to Learning The toddler demonstrates initiative and curiosity by imitating the actions of adults and other children.

Large Motor Skills The toddler continues to develop gross (large) motor skills such as running and jumping and builds skills in coordination, balance and body awareness.

Movement The toddler shows increasing body control and enjoys creative movement. He or she represents experiences and concepts through movement.

Dramatic Play The toddler begins to assume the role of someone or something else in dramatic play. He or she enjoys pretending to be different things.

Did You Know? Movement can provide opportunities for creative exploration and individual expression. Caregivers should secure an open space, both indoors and outdoors, for toddlers to move freely according to their ability and developmental level. Provide many opportunities for children to move and explore their environment, as well as movement experiences via toys, materials, activities and equipment. Toddlers should have access to indoor and outdoor areas that meet or exceed recommended safety standards for performing large-muscle activities. Each toddler should have at least 35 square feet of activity room, and outdoor areas should afford at least 75 square feet per toddler.

TODDLERS