



Newsletter

Animal Cracker Stories

Here's another fun activity to help get your child writing. All you need is a box of animal crackers and your child's vivid imagination.

What You Need:

Box of animal crackers, pencil, writing paper, construction paper, glue

Activity:

1. Keep the animal crackers hidden until it is time for the activity. Ask your child to get his paper and pencil and wait for the surprise.
2. Say that today he will write a short story about an animal. Bring out the box of animal crackers. Invite him to open the box and eat a couple of crackers. Discuss the various animals. Talk about where they live, what they eat, and how they are specially adapted to their environment.
3. Have him close his eyes, reach into the box, and then choose a cracker at random. Ask him to write a story that includes the chosen animal. It is sometimes helpful to set a time limit, such as fifteen minutes, and then return to see what he has written.
4. Once finished, suggest he glue the story onto a piece of construction

paper and decorate around the borders. Invite him to read the story aloud and display it on a wall or bulletin board.

Variation 1:

Suggest your child take several animals from the box and include them in the story.

Variation 2:

Save the box when it is empty. Write the beginnings of sentences about jungle or zoo animals on slips of paper and place them in the box. Invite your child to choose a slip, imagine what happens next, and then write a conclusion to the story.

