BeBe Marin
SPEECH THERAPY LLC

Fun Ways to Build Your Toddler's Language Skills at the Zoo

A trip to the zoo can be a favorite outing for many children and adults! It also provides us with a perfect opportunity to help your toddler develop language skills in an interactive and exciting way. Here are fun strategies to make the most of your visit:

1. **Label and Describe:**
Point out and label animals, colors, and actions. For example, "The tiger has black stripes " or "That parrot has blue feathers." This expands your toddler's vocabulary and helps them connect words to objects.

2. **Ask Open-Ended Questions:**
Encourage responses by asking questions like, "What do you see?" or "Where is the tiger hiding?" These questions prompt toddlers to think and respond, practicing sentence formation.

3. **Use Action Words:**
Describe what each animal is doing to introduce verbs, like "The penguins are jumping into the water!" or "The deer is eating a pumpkin." Action words add variety to their growing vocabulary.

4. **Make Animal Sounds Together:**
Get silly and make loud animal sounds! This makes language practice enjoyable and helps toddlers associate sounds with animals.

5. **Expand on Their Words:**
If your toddler says "monkey," build on it by saying, "Yes, that mama monkey is swinging with her baby!" Expanding on their words introduces new vocabulary and encourages more detailed thinking.

Fun Ways to Build Your Toddler's Language Skills at the Zoo

6 **Narrate Their Actions:**
Describe what your toddler is doing, like "You're pointing at the monkey!" or "You see the dolphins swimming!" This helps them link words with their actions and reinforces language learning.

7 **Relate to Everyday Life:**
Connect what they see at the zoo to familiar things. For instance, "This bear is like your stuffed animal at home!" or "That's a baby elephant; just like there are baby ducks in the pond."

8 **Use Simple Sentences and Repeat:**
Use short sentences and repeat important words for reinforcement. For example, "Look, a zebra! The zebra has stripes. Do you see the zebra?"

9 **Read Signs Aloud:**
Read animal names and fun facts on signs aloud together. This introduces letters, new words, models early literacy skills, and helps toddlers connect language to what they see.

10 **Describe Sensory Experiences:**
If there's a petting zoo or area where toddlers can touch animals, describe the sensations. "This bunny's fur is soft!" This adds a sensory experience to learning, linking touch with language.

By weaving language learning into your zoo adventure, you create a natural, enjoyable opportunity for your toddler to expand their vocabulary, improve comprehension, and build social communication skills. So go ahead—explore, play, and let the roars, giggles, and words come naturally!

BeBe Marin
SPEECH THERAPY LLC

Phone: (814) 882-0761 • Email: bebemarinspeechtherapy@gmail.com • Website: bebemarinspeechtherapy.com