



Things to do before visiting the Zoo!

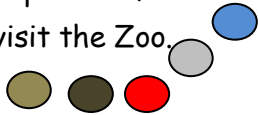
To enhance a visit to the Lincoln Children's Zoo talk about these things with your youngster before you visit.

Talk about the animals you see in your yard - squirrels, birds, rabbits and mice. In some places in Nebraska people can see deer, raccoons, or snakes in their yard. There are places in the world where many of our Zoo animals can be seen by children in their yards. Every animal has a home.

How many kinds of coverings do animals have? (Fur or hair, feathers, scales and shells.)

Play the "What Am I Wearing" game by asking your child "I am a bird, what am I wearing?" or "I am a fox what am I wearing?" Let your child make up some questions also.

Talk about colors and what colors animals come in. Has anyone seen a blue animal? (Some birds, frogs, reptiles and bugs are blue but there isn't a naturally blue animal with fur or hair.) Identify the colors on the animals in your yard and the animals in the Zoo. It might be helpful to make a necklace of round pieces of colored paper and ask the child to find the color of the animals on the necklace as you visit the Zoo.



Notice feet! Animals have different kinds of feet - all are suited to the animal and where it lives. Ducks, otters, turtles and other water animals have webbed feet. Rabbits, dogs, and pandas have padded feet. Perching birds like doves and raptors like eagles have claw feet. Horses and camels have hooves. As you see animals in your yard and at the Zoo talk about the variety of feet you see.

Tails are interesting too! Look at the many kinds of tails on animals. There are long tails, short tails, thin and bushy tails. There are fan tails and grasping tails. Identify animals with each of these.

Talk with your child as you visit the Zoo and after the visit discuss what he/she saw. Children internalize through verbalization - it's a wonderful way to share what was learned.