

Wild Toys

A good toy can make playtime way more fun. An animal that is curious and playful might even pick up something that's **edible** or useful in solving a problem.

When animals are young, their brains are changing quickly. Playing around with objects may also help to develop better thinking skills.



• A stick on the beach becomes a fun toy
• for this young and playful *sea lion*.



.....
Old rope twisted into a ball makes a fun toy for this *caracal* kitten to play with!

For these *lion cubs*, playing with a bird before gulping it down is good training for hunting.



Japanese macaques (muh-KAKS) are more commonly called "snow monkeys" because they live in such cold and snowy environments. But lots of snow equals lots of fun for these three playful primates!



Publisher

Mary D. Smith, M.S. Ed.

Editor

Brent L. Fox, M. Ed.

Creative Director

Sarah M. Fournier

Cover Artist

Amanda R. Harter

Editor-in-Chief/Project Director

Karen J. Goldfluss, M.S. Ed.

Author

Torrey K. Maloof

Illustrator/Imaging

Amanda R. Harter

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Blue Star Education
 12621 Western Avenue
 Garden Grove, CA 92841
www.BlueStarEducation.com

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Let's Get Ready to Read!

Dear Parents and Educators,

This guide will help your reader explore, examine, and engage with the nonfiction book *Animals at Play*. The included activities will strengthen their reading comprehension skills and provide them with opportunities to write and talk about the text. Your reader will delve into the text and analyze it in a more structured and detailed way. Help your reader on their reading journey by working alongside them as they read the book. Ask and answer questions, and offer guidance and support, as needed. Be sure to read through pages 4–5 for helpful instructional ideas.

On this page, you will find information about Blue Star Education's partnership with Ranger Rick and the National Wildlife Federation as well as some fun activities to help foster your reader's love of reading!

Just 4 Fun!

- Work with other parents or teachers to arrange a book club meeting so your reader can discuss the book with peers. Provide a comfy, cool setting and some yummy treats!
- Set up a book nook! Find a quiet corner. Add a few blankets and pillows. Maybe grab a beanbag chair or poof! Be sure there is a lamp or overhead light and—*voila!*—you have a nifty nook any reader would love.
- Challenge your reader to conduct further research on the topic mentioned in the book. Ask them to display what they have learned from their research in a creative way, such as an infographic, collage, or theatrical skit.

The Partnership

Blue Star Education's proud partnership with the National Wildlife Federation and Ranger Rick has made possible the creation of products that combine reading, writing, and science in an exciting and unique way meant to help enrich knowledge and appreciation of the natural world.

The National Wildlife Federation & Ranger Rick

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) strives to unite all Americans to ensure that wildlife thrives in a rapidly changing world. It believes that healthy water, clean air, and public lands are a birthright of all Americans. From the tiniest of insects to the largest of mammals, the NWF wants to ensure the legacy of America's wildlife for future generations.

In January 1967, a new conservationist came on the scene. Knowledgeable, small, and furry, this little leader was ready to foster a healthy and life-long appreciation of nature in children. His name: Ranger Rick! More than 50 years later, Ranger Rick continues to entertain and educate children about the natural world through various media, including the highly successful magazine series.



Name: _____

ACTIVITY 3

Caption It!

Directions: Each picture below shows one or more baby animals playing. Write a caption for the picture that explains what you think is happening.

1



2



3



4



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