

Activity	Materials
<p>Warm up / welcome game: animal snap</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slowly turn over animal cards and encourage the children to look for pairs ... each time a pair appears everyone claps their hands and says 'snap' ALTERNATIVE: browse a book of animal pictures and name as many as you can 	Snap cards / animal flashcards
<p>Attention grabber: Mystery animal guessing game</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God made lots of different animals. I have lots of different animals in my special bag ... I wonder if I give you some clues can you guess which animal it is? <ears, long neck, long nose, colours, number of legs etc.> 	bag or pillowcase plastic toy animals
<p>Song time: E-I-E-I-O (to the tune of Old MacDonald had a farm)</p> <p>"God our Father made the earth, Ee-I ee-i oh, And on that earth he made some cows, Ee-i ee-i oh, With a moo moo here, and a moo moo there", etc.</p>	
<p>Story and question time: God made all the animals</p> <p>Give each child two animals to hold and to help tell the story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God made our world in six days <count to six> God made animals that live in the air, what are they called? <birds, insects, bats, etc.> God made animals that live in the sea, what are they called? <fish, whales, sting rays, sharks, etc.> God made animals that live on the land, what are they called? <ask each child what the animals they are holding are called and what sounds they make> God made people too – the first man was called Adam and the first woman was called Eve 	plastic animals or feltboard pieces
<p>Craft time: animal masks or puppets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> give everyone a prepared paper plate (eye holes precut) or a printed mask template on lightweight cardstock decorate your animal with crepe paper pieces (fringe some pieces to make 'fur') add googly eyes (optional) tape on a craft stick handle (NB: small children often prefer not to have a mask attached to their faces with elastic or string) 	paper plates or pre-printed templates (NB precut the eye holes) crepe paper pieces to decorate googly eyes (optional) craft sticks for handles tape and glue
<p>Game: What's hiding in my sock?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hide a plastic toy animal inside a large sock, pass the sock around and see if anyone can guess by feeling (no peeping) what animal it is. Talk about how many legs it has, does it have a tail or a long neck, how many ears does it have... 	sock plastic toy animals
<p>Craft time: Animal tracks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All animals have different foot prints ... let's have a look at some Let's trace around our feet to make people tracks 	Pictures of animal tracks from internet / book Paper and pen or pencil for tracing
<p>Memory verse: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Gen 1:1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show the picture on the memory verse sheet and talk about the heavens (stars, sun) and the earth. 	memory verse sheets stickers
<p>Activity time: play dough (sensory play or fine motor skills)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God made lots of different animals. Let's make some animals from play dough ... what can you make? 	play dough
<p>Take home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colouring sheet 	colouring sheet

NB: mix and match the activities to suit your students and the materials you have available

Notes:

Making props

- Search for **animal tracks** online to find pictures or look for any of these books in your public library <http://trove.nla.gov.au/book/result?q=subject%3A%22Animal+tracks%22>
- You could play a range of **animal sounds** for the children from the Macaulay Library collection online <http://macaulaylibrary.org/>
- Search for **printable animal masks** online to find templates to use. Try Craft Jr for [samples](#) and DLTk's crafts for kids http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/paper_plates.html
- Play Dough keeps very well. I store it wrapped in a plastic bag in the cupboard for months quite successfully. I usually double the recipe - that makes enough to fill an icecream container. This recipe comes from the McKenzie Creme of Tartar box.

Ingredients

- 2 cups plain flour
- 4 tbs creme of tartar
- 2 tbs cooking oil
- 1 cup salt
- food colouring
- 2 cups water

Method

1. Mix the dry ingredients.
2. Add the water and oil.
3. Stir all the ingredients together and cook over low-medium heat.
4. Keep stirring (you'll get your forearm workout for the day in). The mixture will start to thicken up and pull together. Keep going a little bit longer until it is no longer sticky when you squeeze a piece of the mixture between your fingers.
5. Once it's no longer sticky, dump it out onto a clean surface.
6. While still warm (but not hot) knead together until smooth. Be careful because it is hot in the saucepan and when you first take it out.

Sharing and working together

- Attention spans at this age are fairly short, a variety of activities is needed. Colouring in is not something that 2-3 year olds will do for very long, and many don't enjoy it very much. Giving them coloured pieces of paper and asking them to draw something on the paper and then cutting it out to stick into scrapbooks will be much more popular.
- At this age many children engage in '[parallel play](#)' – they play beside each other but not together. Encouraging sharing through playing games as a group helps to build social skills. Pausing to ensure each child has their turn is important, they will wait if they know their turn always comes.
- You will often be sidetracked by the children wanting to talk (especially 3 year olds), if it is off topic just acknowledge it and redirect eg. "that's very interesting, now let's have a look at ...". If it's on topic don't be afraid to talk more about something that has captured a small child's interest. Eg. The sun might prompt a conversation about hats and sunscreen for example.
- General statements like "God loves everyone" will not have as much impact on 2-3 year olds as saying "God loves <name>" ... it is good to take the time to go around the table and reinforce the statement with each child's name – the repetition will help everyone remember.