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Early Literacy Aside—Empower (*said when handing out sheets at end of program*): Today we talked about farm animals and sang Old Macdonald. Here is an activity sheet for you and your child to draw farm animals and talk about the sounds they make, which is a first step to helping your children hear the smaller sounds in words. Don't worry if you can't figure out which animal your child has drawn. Your child will tell you what it is.

Early Literacy Handout Example

Adapted from Saroj Ghoting's website: www.earlylit.net.

Today in storytime we talked about farm animals.
Ask your child to draw some farm animals and tell you the names of the animals.
Now sing "Old MacDonald Had a Farm Together!"
Old MacDonald had a farm, eeee-iiii-eeee-iiii-oooo
And on that farm he had some horses, eeee-iiii-eeee-iiii-oooo
With a neigh- neigh here and a neigh-neigh there
Here a neigh, there a neigh, everywhere a neigh-neigh.
Old MacDonald had a farm, eeee-iiii-eeee-iiii-oooo

Singing helps slow down the sounds in words. This allows children to hear the smaller sounds in words, a skill your child needs to get ready to read. The ability to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words is called phonological awareness.