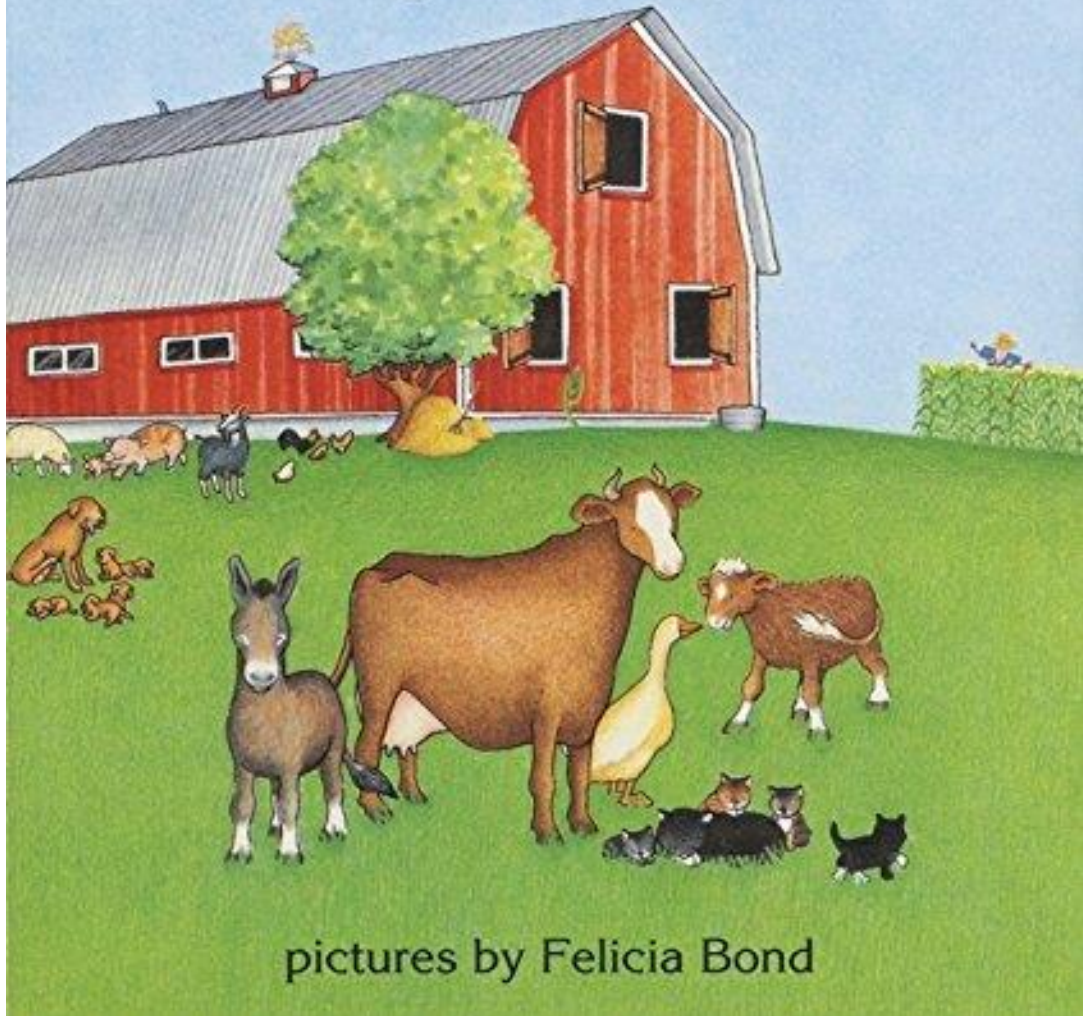


# BIG RED BARN

Margaret Wise Brown



pictures by Felicia Bond

Big Red Barn by Margaret Wise Brown is a classic children's book that explores a day in the life of various barn-yard animals. Its colorful images, rhyming patterns, and memorable characters can help your student with their focus, memory retention, and ability to express themselves through play.

# Teacher Curriculum: Pre-K and Kindergarten

## Video:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I63F7WF1RaY>

## Before reading the story:

- Introduce the cover of the book and title to the students
- Ask if any of the students have ever visited or seen a farm
- Discuss with students the importance of listening to the story and concentrating on what animals will be discussed
  - Ask what tools they can use to help them pay attention to the story
  - Pass out Whole Body Listening activity (see below) to improve students understanding of focus/concentration
- After completing activity on listening remind the students to use their listening eyes, ears, hands, mouth, feet, body, heart, and brain

## Story Time/Circle Time:

- After introducing the book and completing Whole Body Listening, begin to read the story to your students
- Utilize this time to engage in the students in the story by letting them see each page/animal
- While reading the story, notice if your students are remaining focused and gently remind them about how to actively listen if they become unfocused
- After finishing the book, ask students to raise their hands to answer simple questions such as:
  - What was the story about?
  - Were there any people in the story?
  - What was your favorite animal?
  - Was this a happy story or a sad story?

## Movement/Music:

- In Music/Movement class, you can utilize the theme of the book “farm animals” to help improve their expression of self through play and continue to help them comprehend/remember the book.
- If students become off-task, gently redirect them back to the activity at hand.
- Animal Yoga – yoga is one way to improve a child’s concentration, focus, coordination, health, and self-esteem. These exercises will be a fun way to

incorporate the book's theme while practicing skills that will be helpful for your students.

- Hang yoga poster in room to help students understand poses (see below)
  - Cow – Cow Pose
    - On all fours, look up, open your chest, and arch your back. Moo!
  - Hen – Squat Pose
    - Come down to a squat, bend your elbows, and flap your wings like a chicken. Cluck cluck!
  - Pig – Happy Baby Pose
    - Lie on your back with your chin tucked in. Hug your knees into your chest, then grab the outer part of your feet with both of your hands and roll like a pig in mud. Oink oink!
  - Sheep – Cat Pose
    - On all fours, tuck your chin into your chest and round your back. Baa baa!
  - Horse – Three-Legged Dog Pose
    - Step back to hands and feet, like an upside-down V, and gently lift one leg at a time. Slowly kick up like a horse. Switch legs and repeat the pose. Neigh!

## **Art:**

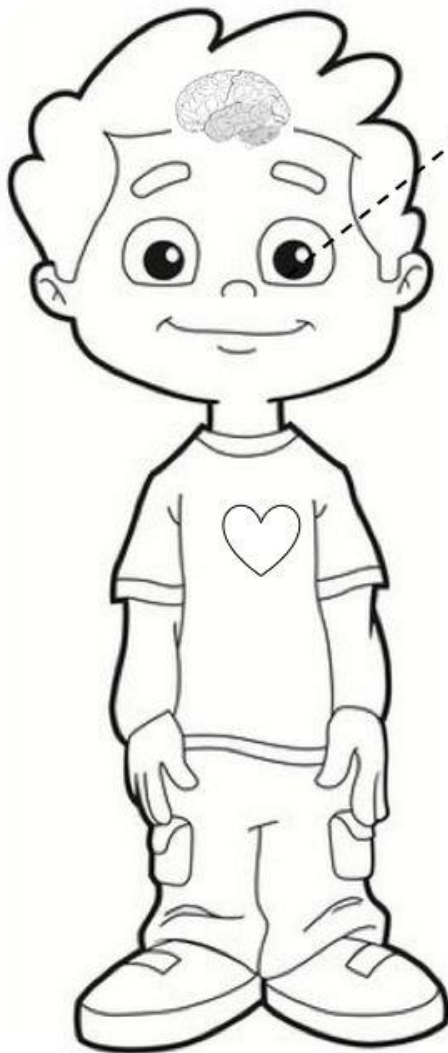
- This activity is a combination of both art and ability to concentrate and follow directions. Your students will enjoy incorporating the farm animal theme into an art project that will also build their skills.
- Print copies of the worksheet *Animals: Following Directions* (see below) for each student
  - Provide makers, pencils, and crayons
- If students are unable to read prompts, read each prompt aloud taking time to let them finish each step
- Encourage each student to take their time and listen when the prompt is read. Remind them they are working on following directions and concentration.









## **Play Time:**

- During free time/play time, create a sensory bin for your students to engage hands-on with the theme of the book. This tactile experience will help the students in their sensory development and express themselves through their play.
- You will need several materials –
  - Small box or enclosed space
  - Wild rice, unpopped popcorn, dried lentils
  - Farm animals/Farmer/Tractors
  - Any other toys you feel are appropriate
- Let your students play utilizing their imagination

## Whole Body Listening

1. Draw a line from the body part to how you listen with that body part.
2. Color the picture



	<b>Eyes</b> = Look at the person talking to you.
	<b>Ears</b> = Both ears ready to hear
	<b>Hands</b> = Quiet in you lap, in your pockets or by your side.
	<b>Mouth</b> = Quiet – no talking, humming, or making sound.
	<b>Feet</b> = Quiet on the floor.
	<b>Body</b> = Faces the speaker.
	<b>Heart</b> = Caring about what the other person is saying.
	<b>Brain</b> = Thinking about what is being said.

# FARM ANIMALS YOGA



**I am a hen.**

SQUAT POSE



**I am a horse.**

THREE-LEGGED DOG POSE



**I am a sheep.**

CAT POSE



**I am a cow.**

COW POSE



**I am a pig.**

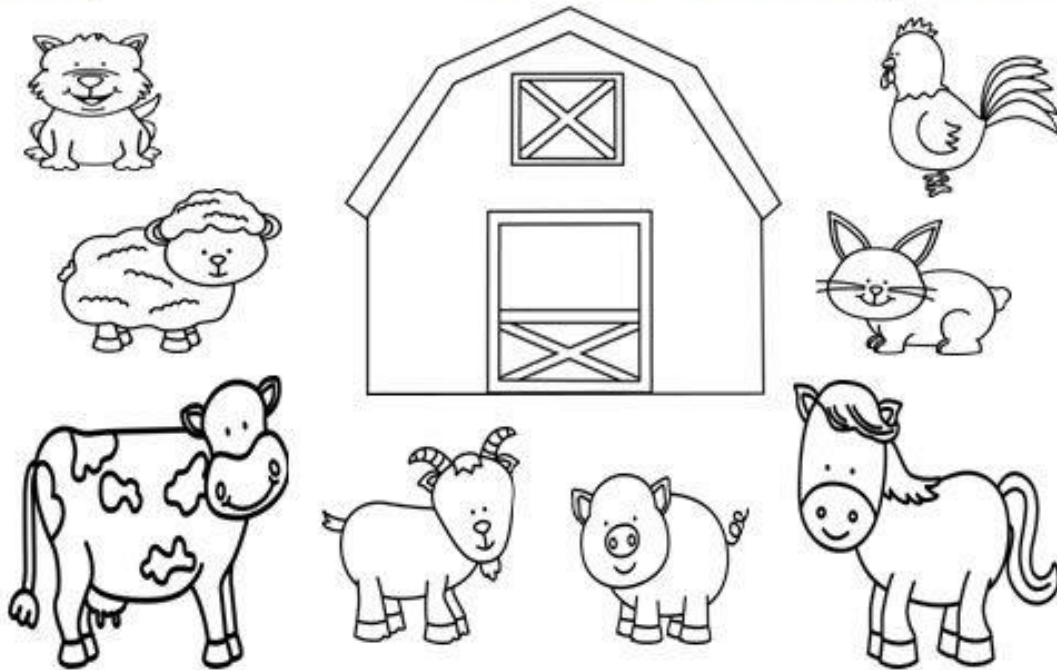
HAPPY BABY POSE

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# Farm Animals Yoga PRINTABLE POSTER

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Farm Animals: Following Directions



1. Color the horse brown.
2. Color the cow black with white spots.
3. Color the pig pink.
4. Color the goat orange.
5. Color the sheep white.
6. Color the rabbit gray.
7. Color the chicken orange.
8. Color the dog yellow.
9. Color the barn's window and door yellow.
10. Color the barn red.
11. Circle the words that name farm animals.

For a complete farm unit, check out the "First Grade" tab at  
[www.creativeclassroomconnections.com](http://www.creativeclassroomconnections.com)

