

Learning possibilities

Text: Cronin, D 2000, *Click, clack, moo: Cows that type*, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, New York.

Engage

- Step 1. If you have this book at home, encourage your child/children to predict what the story is about from the cover. If not use the suggested video link in the Resources box and watch the story together.
- Step 2. Read/watch the story and encourage your child/children to join in.
- Step 3. Invite your child/children to recall the characters in the story.
- Step 4. Here are some questions to ask your child/children about the story.
1. Where did all the animals live?
 2. What did the cows want the farmer to give them?
 3. What is a typewriter used for? How else can we write a letter? (write with pencil/pen; with a computer, text message)
 4. How did the farmer feel when the animals kept sending him letters? (furious)

RESOURCES

Video

The Farmer In The Dell | Kids Songs | Super Simple Songs (YouTube, Super Simple Songs – Kids Songs)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-krsNziXEw>

I Went To Visit a Farm Today | Nursery Rhyme | Sing A Long (YouTube, My Little World of Song)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oB0xmLjSOis>

Cows In The Kitchen – Nursery Rhyme (YouTube, My Little World of Song)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YepDvNwFIGs>

Click Clack Moo Cows That Type [Animated] (YouTube, Young Learners)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYD8WRJTFRY>

Respond

This story explores ideas about communication and caring for animals. Talk with your child/children about the individual needs of farm animals using the following questions as prompts:

- How do animals communicate with people? How do we know how animals are feeling? Here you might talk about the signals that a family pet gives us e.g. 'When Barney wags his tail we know he's happy to see us'. 'He hides behind the lounge when there is thunder because he is scared of the noise.'
- What are the ways that people communicate with one another? (facial expression, sounds, words, music, dance, signing; electronically through phone, emails, video chat). Play with your child/children sharing messages with a song or dance for everyday routines e.g. singing when letting your child/children know it's time for lunch, to pack up the toys etc. Compose an email message to send to family members, or skype a grandparent/family friends to stay in touch.

Extend

- Use playdough and collage to create the animals, farmhouse and pond from the story. Remind your child/children that the ducks thought the pond was boring and wanted a diving board. Discuss what could be used to make the diving board and explore children's ideas of what else they could add to the pond to make it more interesting.
- If cows wore hats what would they look like? Make a hat or another piece of clothing for an animal. Ask your child/children to explain what they would add to the clothing to make it appealing for the animal.