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## Animally

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*Many of these activities are for children in a primary or preschool setting, but they can easily be used at home as well. The activities are designed to develop pre-reading and pre-writing skills.*

### Before Reading the Book

- Ask each child in turn to name one person that they love and what it is about them that makes them lovable.
- Show the children the cover of the book and ask what they think “I love you animally” might mean.
- Ask about the animals they see on the cover. Ask if they love any of these animals. Why or why not?

### After Reading the Book

- Have an assortment of plush animal toys or pictures of animals on hand and give each child a different one to hold.
- Ask each child to say what their animal is and use one word to describe it.
- Say, “I love you \_\_\_\_\_,” turning their descriptive word into an adverb by adding *ly*. For example:
  - “My pig is pink. I love you pinkly.”
  - “Spiders are creepy! I love you creepily.”

### Personalize the Theme Using the Children’s Names

- Turn the children’s names into adverbs by having them add *ly*.
- Have each child write (or with younger children, write for them) their name adverb preceded by “I love you.” (Example, “I love you Aidenly” or “I love you Madisonly.”)
- Then have the child draw a picture of themselves.

### Discussion Questions

After the initial reading, go back to the book slowly, page by page, and ask the child what they see. For example:

- What do you think is happening underground with the mole family?
- What do you think made the dog sad?
- Look at this picture of the shark family. What’s happening? What do you think might happen next?
- Did you ever see a (any animal from the book)? Tell us about it.

### Music, Words and Rhyme

- Choose any rhyming pair from the book and ask the children to think of a third animal that rhymes with the two cited. Then ask them to choose a word to describe that sound.
- Add *ly* to the descriptive word, explaining that now the word can describe how we love it. (For older children, add that you’ve made the word into an adverb.)



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- Using the pattern in the book, add another line to the rhyming pair and sing the lines to a simple tune (The Happy Birthday song, for example).

### Animal Moves

In a large space or outside, call out animal movements for the children to make. For example:

- March powerfully like an ox.
- Buzz busily like a bee.
- Run playfully like a ferret.
- Swim gracefully like a swan.
- Lumber fiercely like a bear.
- Fly bravely like an eagle.
- Waddle enormously like a hog.

Or ask the children to suggest different animals and discuss how they move. Have the children demonstrate.

### Activities with Older Children

#### Building Vocabulary

There are 30 adverbs in *Animally*:

hugely	gently	colorfully	slowly	bravely
shyly	boldly	playfully	quietly	freely
cleverly	cutely	gracefully	blindly	exceedingly
powerfully	briskly	tenderly	softly	warmly
busily	hungrily	speedily	friskily	loyally
doggedly	musically	fiercely	deeply	enormously

- Start a chart that will eventually hold all 30 adverbs. Write the first adverb, and then the adjective next to it.
- Read both words and discuss the meaning. For example: "Hugely. Huge. What does huge mean?" Expand on their explanation if necessary.
- Find ways to use the new word in conversation during the coming days to reinforce it in the children's minds.
- Later, perhaps the following week and the weeks thereafter, repeat the activity with a new word, until eventually you've added all 30 words. Each week, review the previous words.

#### Use Adverbs in Daily Routines

During the course of the day, point out what the children are doing, and label it with an adverb. For example: "You are running quickly," or "You are building busily," or "You are helping kindly." The children may model your behavior and begin to incorporate adverbs in their own speech.