



BACKYARD ADVENTURES

LITTLE LAB WEEK 2: BABY ANIMALS

EVER WONDER . . . HOW A BABY CHICK BREATHES INSIDE ITS EGG?

What we learned this week:

- The special names of some baby animals.
- How different animal mothers care for their babies.
- That chicks and ducklings hatch from shells.

Curiosity Circle

Our new friend Captain Curiosity had lots of questions about baby animals this week, so we had lots to explore! First we pulled baby animals out of the mystery box and learned about each one. We learned that baby animals often have special names, such as duckling, chick, piglet, calf, foal, fawn, gosling, and kid! We also learned the answers to these “Ever Wonder?” questions: **Ever wonder why so many animals have babies in the spring?** Animals have babies in the spring to give them enough time to get big and strong before the cold of winter sets in again. **Ever wonder what special names some baby animals are called?** Baby chickens are called chicks. Baby ducks are called ducklings. Baby deer are called fawns. Baby kangaroos are called joeys. Baby pigs are called piglets. Baby swans are called cygnets. Baby sheep are called lambs. Baby rabbits and baby cats are both called kittens. Baby bears (like Tai Shan, the baby panda at the National Zoo!) and baby lions are both called cubs. Baby dogs and baby seals are both called pups. Baby humans and baby goats are both called kids. And baby cows, elephants, antelopes, giraffes and whales are all called calves! **Ever wonder what baby animals hatch out of eggs?** Many animals hatch out of eggs, including reptiles, fish and birds. The eggs in our incubator contain baby ducks and baby chickens. **Ever wonder whether a chick can breathe while it is growing inside an egg?** There is a paper-thin membrane inside an egg at the wide end that separates the rest of the eggshell from a pocket of air. The chick’s head develops near this pocket of air. About three days before she hatches, the baby chick punctures this air pocket with her egg tooth (a tiny, sharp point on the top of her beak) and takes her first gulp of air. The chick will then make peep, peep sounds and peck, peck, peck until she breaks through the egg and hatches into the world! Eggs have about 10,000 pores that allow in enough air for chicks to continue breathing until they hatch.



Curiosity Centers

- ◆ **Discovery Activity:** We matched baby animals to their mothers using pictures on the magnet wall.
- ◆ **Manipulative Activity:** We helped ducklings follow their mother in the water table.
- ◆ **Art Activity:** We made animal masks to play with at home – one for a mommy/daddy and one for a little one.

The Roundup & The Big Deal

We played a game of “Duck, Duck, Duckling.” After that, we all put on our masks and pretended to be kittens hopping around following our rabbit mom!



Hey, Hey Word of the Day: Duckling

Curiosity @ Home

This week at home, focus on reading stories about baby animals. Talk about what they are called, and how their mommies and daddies protect and feed them just like we humans protect and feed our own babies! Play with your duck family in the tub and encourage your little one to make up stories about them. Also, keep your eyes out for animal babies in your own backyard. Watch for baby birds, snakes, insects, deer, rabbits, squirrels You could also spend a sunny afternoon at the National Zoo, where there are lots of cool baby animals to check out!

Songs & Poems

C-Zone Song (to the tune "I'm a Little Teapot")
Welcome Song
Welcome to the C-Zone
It's time for us to start
Exploring and learning
We've all got a part
(Spoken) So let's fasten up our lab coats and get curious!

Song to the Captain (to the tune "Wheels on the Bus")
I like baby animals (What?)
Animals (What?)
Animals (What?)
I like baby animals (What?),
I'll name some for you.

Kittens, piglets, chicks and foals
(What?)
Chicks and foals (What?)
Chicks and foals (What?)
Kittens, piglets, chicks and foals
(What?)
These are all babies!

Lambs and calves are babies too
(What?)
Babies too (What?)
Babies too (What?)
Lambs and calves are babies too
(What?)
Now who wants to tell the
Captain? (I do!)

Five Little Ducklings

Five little ducklings went out for a swim. (Hold up hand, extend fingers.)
The first little duckling put his head in. (Point to each finger in turn.)
The second little duckling put his head back.
The third little duckling said, "Quack, quack, quack."
The fourth little duckling with his tiny brother
Went for a walk with his father and mother. ("Walk" fingers up opposite arm.)

10 Little Chicks (to the tune "10 Little Indians")
1 little
2 little
3 little chicks
4 little
5 little
6 little chicks
7 little
8 little
9 little chicks
Hatching out today!

C-Zone Goodbye Song

Goodbye from the C-Zone
It's time for us to go
The learning never stops
Now tell me what you know!

