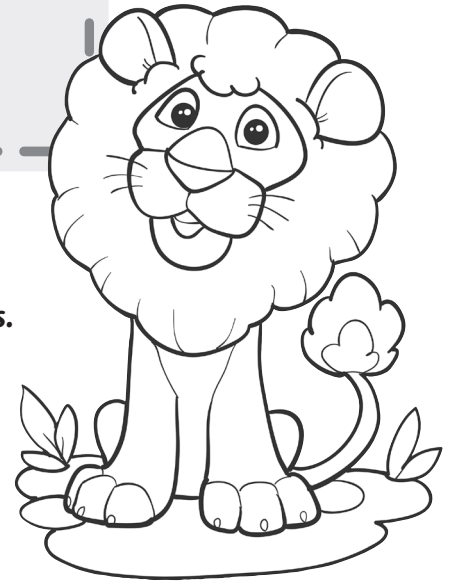


# Mammals



*This week, your child will learn about the characteristics of mammals.*

## Word of the Week

mammal

*A mammal is an animal that feeds milk to its babies and usually has hair or fur covering its body.*

Use the Word of the Week at home.

You might ask: *What mammals will we see on the way to school?*  
(dog, cat, goat, people)

## More Words to Know

backbone  
characteristics  
difference  
one less  
pattern  
rhyme  
warm-blooded

## Mammals in Our House

Ask: *What mammals do we have living in our house?*  
Mammals have hair, they breathe, they make their own heat (feel warm), and they have a spine. People, cats, dogs, and hamsters are mammals. Talk with your child about your cat or dog or a neighbor's cat or dog. Call attention to its mammal characteristics.

## One Less

Use your kitchen cupboards or pantry to create a one-less pattern. Find a group of stackable objects (plastic glasses, cans or boxes of food, plastic cereal bowls). Have your child build a stack of four. Build stacks for three, two, and one. Challenge your child to arrange the stacks from most to least.

## Read About Animals

Choose an animal book from your home library or your neighborhood library. Explore the book with your child. Begin by looking at the photos or pictures and talking about the animals. Ask: *Is this animal a mammal? How do you know?* If your child is interested in a particular animal, read the text about that animal to learn some new facts.

## Make It Appear

Cut out the shape of a bear or a dog. Place the cutout under a piece of paper. Suggest that your child rub a crayon over the paper until the outline of the animal appears. (It's like magic!) Try different animal shapes. Have your child tell a few facts about the animal that appears.

**Coming Next Week: We will be learning about reptiles.**