



First Friends Animal Safari Set

Fifteen wild animals, two rangers on a quad, fences, troughs and hay bales. Where does each animal live, what does it eat, and how do you know? The biggest cast in the range — made for sorting.

AGE

1 – 5 years

CONTENTS

15 animals, quad, 2 figures,
fences, troughs, hay bales

MARKET

Dual — Home & Education

ARTICLE NUMBERS

76103 · 76061 – 76068 ·
76106 + park pieces

WHAT IS IN THE SET



76103

Quad with Boy
17.5 × 17.5 × 13 cm



76062

First Friends
Elephant



76063

First Friends Giraffe



76065

First Friends Lion



76061

First Friends
Crocodile



76064

First Friends
Monkey



76068

First Friends Panda



76106

First Friends
Kangaroo

WHAT CHILDREN LEARN



Classification

Fifteen animals is enough to sort by an obvious rule, then a given rule, then a rule the child invents and defends.



Early maths

Count the herd, count the legs, share the hay fairly. More, fewer, the same.



Understanding the world

Hot places and cold, grasslands and rivers. Which animals could meet, and which never would.



Language

Names, sounds, stripes, spots, trunk, pouch, tail. Describing words with something to describe.



Care & responsibility

The rangers feed, water and fence. Animals in a park depend on the people who look after them.



Social play

One ranger each and a job to share. Who fixes the fence while the other feeds the giraffe?

TOPIC LINKS

Wild animals

Habitats

Hot and cold places

Animal welfare

Sorting

Counting and sharing

Please check — Follows the September 2026 sets list (TL0182 without wheelbarrow and bricks). Set name to be confirmed — formerly 'Animal Sanctuary Park'. Nine of the fifteen animals are current singles and shown here; the other six to be confirmed. Set photograph to follow the 28 September shoot.



Learning through play

ONE SET, FIVE YEARS OF PLAY



FOUR WAYS TO USE THE SET

Solo discovery — 12 months+ Two or three animals and the quad. Sounds, clicks, a short drive.	Adult-led pair — 2 years+ Feed, sort, share. The adult sets the rule; the child places the animals.
Small group — 3–5 years The rangers' day, or where in the world, with one ranger or two animals each.	Continuous provision On a sand or grass tray with the fences for a whole wild-animals topic. Fifteen animals means nobody waits.

IN THE SETTING

No small parts; animals safe for teething	Wipe clean; fine for the sand tray and outdoors	Fences and troughs store flat; animals in one deep tray	Every animal available singly — replace one, not the set
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WHAT TO LOOK FOR

☐ Can the child match a sound to the right animal?	☐ Does the child keep track of which animals have been fed?
☐ Can the child invent a sorting rule and say what it is?	☐ Does the child match one bale to one animal without counting?
☐ Does the child give a reason for where an animal lives?	☐ Do the children divide the rangers' jobs between them?

AREAS OF LEARNING

Physical development Communication & language Personal, social & emotional Understanding the world Mathematics Expressive arts

EXTEND THE SET

The cast that makes classification richer — add the polar animals for a 'could they meet?' game, or the dinosaurs for 'then and now'.

76052 First Friends Polar Bear	76050 First Friends Penguin	76056 First Friends T Rex	76067 First Friends Koala
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1 Who Says That?

12–30 months
1–2 children + adult

YOU WILL NEED

Four animals with clear sounds: lion, elephant, monkey, snake.

WHAT TO DO

1. Stand the four animals up. Name each and make its sound together.
2. Make one sound. "Who says that?" Let the child pick it up.
3. Hand it over to hold and copy the sound.
4. Swap: the child makes a sound and you find the animal — get it wrong sometimes.

LEARNING FOCUS

Listening

Matching

Animal sounds

Naming

Easier — Two animals: lion and snake.

Harder — Add a fifth animal with no obvious sound — what does a giraffe say?

WATCH FOR

Matching a sound to an animal is listening and memory together. A child who corrects your deliberate mistake has the match secure.

2 Feed the Animals

18 months – 3 years
1–2 children + adult

YOU WILL NEED

The quad and ranger, a hay bale, three animals spaced round the floor, one trough.

WHAT TO DO

1. Load the hay on the quad. "Time to feed the animals."
2. Drive to the first animal. Stop. Put the hay in the trough. "Here you are, giraffe."
3. Drive to the next. Repeat. The child drives and feeds.
4. "Who hasn't been fed?" Look, find, and finish the round.

LEARNING FOCUS

Gross motor

Journeys

Care

Remembering who is done

Easier — Two animals, adult driving, child feeds.

Harder — The lion doesn't eat hay — what does it need instead?

WATCH FOR

Does the child keep track of who has been fed? Remembering which items are done is working memory, and it is what makes this a job rather than a drive.

3 Sort the Park

2–4 years
1–3 children + adult

YOU WILL NEED

All the animals and the fences. Make two or three pens.

WHAT TO DO

1. Build the pens. "Big animals in this one, small ones in that one." Sort together.
2. Open the pens. New rule: "stripes or spots in here, plain ones there."
3. Rule three: "who could climb a tree?" Let the children argue it out.
4. The child chooses the rule; the adult and the others guess it.

LEARNING FOCUS

Sorting

Classification

Reasoning

Describing words

Easier — Two pens, one obvious rule, four animals.

Harder — Two rules at once: big AND has four legs.

WATCH FOR

The third rung is the one that matters: a child who invents a rule and can say it is doing real classification. Note who gets there.



4 Share the Hay

3–5 years
1–3 children + adult

YOU WILL NEED

Six animals, six hay bales (blocks will do), troughs.

WHAT TO DO

1. Line up six animals. Give out the bales one each, touching each animal. "Enough?"
2. Take one bale away. Give them out again. "Who has none?"
3. Add two. Give them out. "Who has two? Is that fair?"
4. Ask "how many bales do we need for six animals?" and check by counting.

LEARNING FOCUS

One-to-one

Sharing

More and fewer

Counting

Easier — Three animals, three bales; match without counting.

Harder — Twelve bales for six animals — how many each? Share them out and count.

WATCH FOR

Matching one bale to one animal without counting is one-to-one correspondence. Solving 'enough?' by counting both sets is the next stage.

5 Where in the World?

3–5 years
2–4 children + adult

YOU WILL NEED

All the animals. Three cloths: yellow (grassland), green (forest), blue (river). A globe or map if there is one.

WHAT TO DO

1. Lay out the three places. Name them and what they feel like.
2. "Where does the crocodile live?" Let the child place it. Then the lion, the panda, the kangaroo.
3. Find the animals that need water nearby and move them closer to the river.
4. Ask "could the panda and the kangaroo ever meet?" Talk about far away.

LEARNING FOCUS

Understanding the world

Habitats

Reasoning

Vocabulary

Easier — Two places: water or land.

Harder — Find each animal's home on a globe or map and put a finger on it.

WATCH FOR

Listen for reasons: 'the crocodile needs water', 'the panda eats bamboo'. Linking an animal to what it needs from its home is understanding, not just placement.

6 The Rangers' Day

4–5 years
2–3 children + adult

YOU WILL NEED

The whole set. A simple job list with pictures: hay, water, fence, count.

WHAT TO DO

1. Give each child a ranger and share out the jobs from the list.
2. Play the morning: feeding round on the quad, water in the troughs.
3. A problem: the fence is down and the monkey is out. Who fixes it, who fetches the monkey?
4. Evening: count the animals in. "Is everyone here?" Tick the list.

LEARNING FOCUS

Cooperation

Sequencing

Problem solving

Counting

Easier — Two jobs only, one each.

Harder — One ranger is off sick — how does the other manage all the jobs?

WATCH FOR

Do the children divide the work and check with each other? Coordinating roles round a shared task is cooperative play, and the evening count gives it a natural end.

