



BARN MURAL

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

Children develop new vocabulary and comprehension as they learn about different animals and tools that can be found in a barn.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

A copy of Loren Long's *Otis* | Large butcher paper | Markers and/or crayons | Cups or small containers for markers and crayons

WHAT YOU'LL DO

Children use markers and crayons to create a mural of a barn. Introduce this activity by showing children a picture of Otis and the calf asleep in the stalls of the barn. Tell children that barns are useful places where farmers can store their tools (like tractors), and where animals can live. The barn is a shelter for animals and tools. Help children understand that people don't live in barns, but instead are like a big house for all of the animals and tools on the farm. In this activity, children will draw some of the animals and tools that can be found in a barn.

Otis's farm wouldn't be the same without a barn full of noises to lull the calf to sleep. There's a lot more to a barn than sleeping though, which children will find out with this activity.



HOW IT'S DONE

1 Prepare for this activity by sketching a large barn onto the butcher paper. Plan enough space for the number of children participating in this activity to be able to draw something in the barn.

2 Draw individual stalls that children can fill with their own drawings of animals and tools. You might also draw the silo and windmill next to the barn as seen in the illustrations of *Otis*.

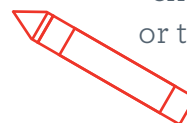
3 Set up cups or small containers with markers and/or crayons that children can access. Consider the number of children participating in this activity and have enough drawing utensils spread out accordingly.

Help children learn about some other things that might be found in a barn (chickens, ducks, pigs, bales of hay, wagons, pitch forks, pails). Use the illustration of *Otis* and the calf asleep in the barn to name some of the objects.



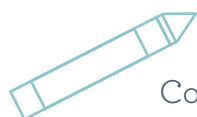
Help children understand how print works by writing labels for the animals or tools that they draw on the mural.

Encourage children to talk about and draw some of the animals or tools that you've just seen in *Otis*. Encourage children to put animals or tools in different stalls of the barn.



THE END

Conclude this activity by talking about the many different things that children have drawn in the barn. Remind children that the barn is like a big house for the animals and tools on the farm, and people don't usually live in barns.



VOCABULARY LIST

Bales of hay | Calf | Chickens | Ducks | Pails | Pigs | Pitch forks | Silo | Stall | Tractor | Wagons | Windmill

TALKING TIPS

Share some of your knowledge of barns with children. Have you visited a barn or read other books about barns? Tell children some of the things you know about how farmers use barns, and what animals and tools might be found in barns.

Be sure to join Jumpstart's *Read for the Record*® on October 3, 2013. Learn more at jstart.org/readfortherecord.