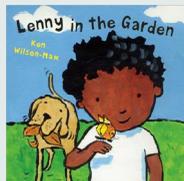


# Let's Explore! Building World Knowledge

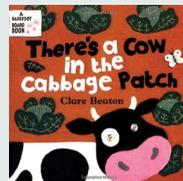
When we read with children and when they later read for themselves, they are constantly trying to make sense of what they hear and read. Sometimes though, when we have no experience with what we're hearing or reading about, what we read doesn't make sense to us. Children know lots of things already but sometimes what they know (like where SpongeBob lives) isn't very helpful for understanding the text. By increasing their knowledge of the natural and social world as well as their vocabularies, we can give them more information to connect to. We can do that in lots of easy and fun ways:

- **Read about things** that are interesting to your child. Informational books about sharks, soccer, boats, or princesses can help children (and adults!) know more about their world.
- **As soon as you** leave your house, you're on a field trip! Just walking to the mailbox to get the mail can give you interesting things to look at and talk about. Birds flying overhead, an ambulance going by, or a caterpillar working its way up a leaf are all interesting topics. Talking about your experiences can reinforce your child's understanding and knowledge.
- **Build your child's** knowledge as you build your relationship with your child! Do simple activities together like baking, fishing, camping, creating a craft and talk about the way you're doing what you're doing and the materials you're using.
- **Go to the grocery store** together. How many foods can you name in the produce area? Which ones don't you know? Where do you think they came from?

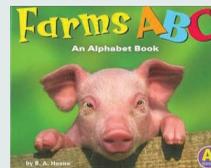
*Your child might also enjoy...*



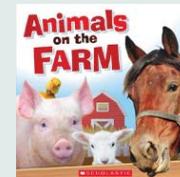
**Lenny in the Garden**  
by Ken Wilson-Max



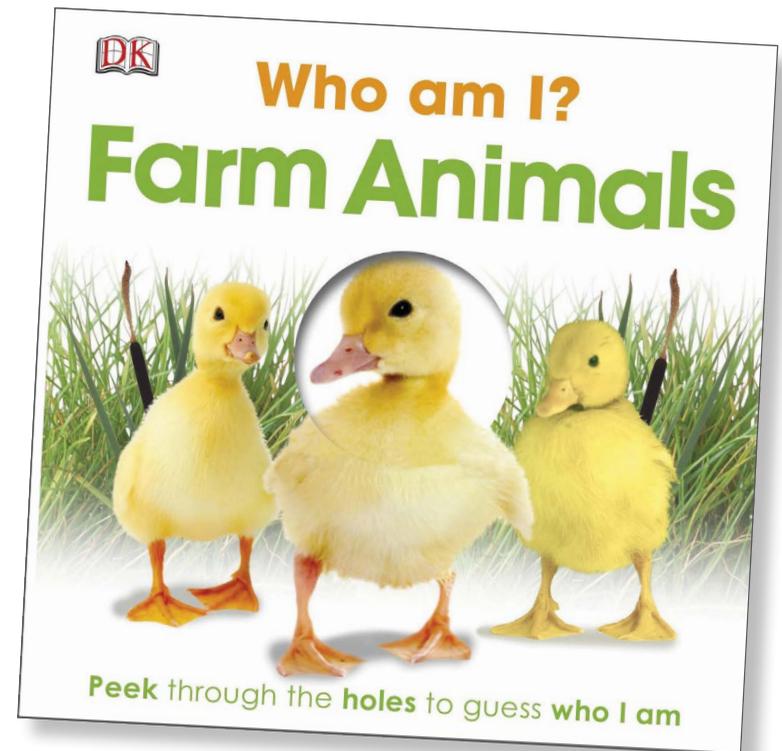
**There's a Cow in the Cabbage Patch**  
by Clare Beaton



**Farms ABC: An Alphabet Book**  
by B.A. Hoena



**Animals on the Farm**  
by Chris Hernandez



*Raising Readers' 15-month selection for 2014*

**Raising Readers**