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Originally published by  
Monday Morning Books, Inc.

Republished in Australia by

**HAWKER BROWNLOW**

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©1997 Monday Morning Books, Inc.

©2002 Hawker Brownlow Education

Printed in Australia

ISBN: 1 74025 772 3

Code: #MMA-2044

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# Introduction

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How many times have you heard a child ask, “Where does milk come from?” or “How did that plant grow?” Have you ever wished a child could experience life on a farm?

*The Farm* is a thematic unit that allows children to explore a country setting and farm environment. If it’s not possible to take the children to a real farm for an excursion, this unit can bring an imaginative farm to them!

Large boxes become a barn, tractor, and fruit and vegetable stand. Imaginative play comes alive as the children dress up in costumes they have made. Some children play at being pigs, ducks, or horses living in the barn. Others wear their farmer’s hats and vests and “plow” the fields in the tractor. Still more “sell” produce at the fruit and vegetable stand. And all children love the experience of “milking” the sawhorse cow!

The process of seed growth is realised as children plant and care for their own seeds in bottles. This activity is reinforced through a group mural and individual projects.

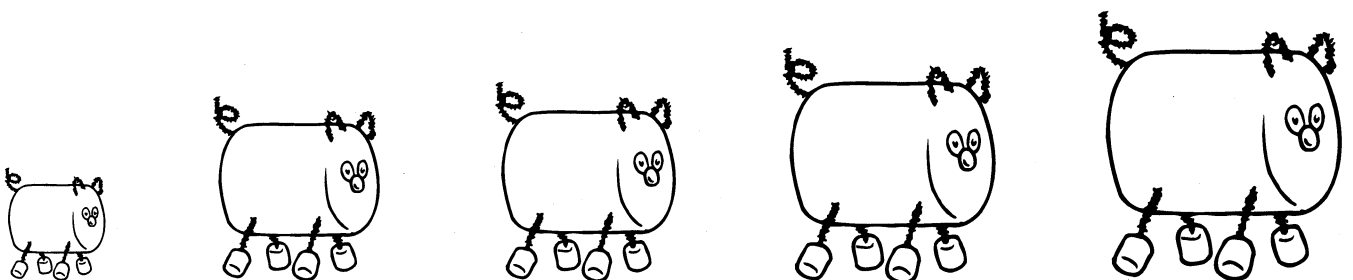
## **Personal Observations:**

The children eagerly used the dramatic play props in their imaginative farm environment. Some of the children made a paddock from blocks in which they pranced around on their riding ponies. Others pretended they were pigs at a feeding trough. Quacking sounds could be heard as children helped one another put on their duck headbands and feet.

The boys and girls loved making and wearing the farmer’s hats and vests. They wore their farm outfits as they used a wooden wheelbarrow and buckets turned upside down for stools. Milking the cow was a most popular activity. The latex glove constantly needed refilling as the children squirted milk into the bucket.

Children experimented with weights and measures as they filled the shovel of the tractor to see how much it lifted. They discovered that if several children worked together, more dirt could be lifted. Laughter rang out as the items tumbled from the shovel into the tractor.

It was a delight to stand back and observe the children engage in cooperative play as they re-enacted the farm experiences. It truly became their imaginary world!



# Number Match

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## Materials:

Number Match Pattern (p. 38), crayons or *textas*, yellow self-sticking dots

## Directions:

1. Duplicate a copy of the number match pattern for each child.
2. Write the numbers 1 to 10 on the self-sticking dots. Make a set of dots for each child.
3. Have the children match the numbered dots to the corresponding numbers on the pattern.
4. Provide crayons or *textas* for children to use to colour in their pictures.

## Options:

- If self-sticking dots are not available, cut circles from yellow construction paper and number these. Children can glue the circles to the patterns.
- Write the numbers out of order on the yellow dots.
- For more advanced children, white-out the numbers on the pattern before duplicating it. Have children write in the numbers in order in the circles.