



Children's Museum of Houston

Chickens and Eggs

Background: *Chickens Aren't the Only Ones* is an interesting, lyrical picture book highlighting animals that come from eggs. This book provides an opportunity to discuss animal life cycles in a way that is appropriate for young children.

Materials:

- The book *Chickens Aren't the Only Ones*
- Modeling Clay or Play dough
- Plastic Eggs (one per child)

Procedure:

1. Before you read the book, place a ball of modeling clay or dough inside each plastic egg.
2. Read the book. Discuss different ways that animals have their babies. Some lay eggs, while others give birth to live babies. Discuss different animals that students are familiar with that lay eggs including chickens, some turtles, some fish, etc.
3. After you read the book, distribute the eggs and encourage students to select an animal from the book to create from the modeling clay or dough.
4. As students are working, go around to each student and discuss the characteristics of the selected animal. How many legs does it have? Does it have a tail? Feathers? Where does your animal live?
5. Encourage students to share their creations with the group-describing the animal and its unique characteristics.

Extension:

- Visit a local pet store, zoo or farm to see baby animals.
- Invite students to bring in baby pictures to share with the group. Discuss how they have grown over time.
- Share pictures of baby and adult animals. How are the babies different from the adults? How long does it take a baby animal to reach maturity?

Questions to Ask:

- Which animals come from eggs?
- Have you ever seen an animal hatch from an egg?
- Are all eggs hard?