



# Small World Play

Sorting and describing, using mathematical properties such as size and shape as well as position and distance

Counting and comparing numbers

Solving problems involving sharing



**Children often enjoy** playing in an imaginary small world environment, for example, the zoo, jungle, farm, with dinosaurs ...

**Adults could** provide various collections of small world play figures, junk materials and an area for the play to take place.

## The Activity

Get out the appropriate play items, leaving them in their basket/box, alongside a suitable area for the play to take place. (Below we use the farm as an example.)

## Encouraging mathematical thinking and reasoning:

### Describing

Tell me about your farm/farm animals/pens . . .

Tell me about (for example) the cows and the pigs.

### Reasoning

Why have you put . . . here?

What else could belong here? Why?

Why is (for example) the cow pen so much bigger than the sheep pen?

### Opening out

[Name of child] wants to have a farm as well, could s/he share some of your animals?

Do you think the pens for the . . . could be any better, if so how?

I've just found these extra animals. Might there be space in your farm for them?

How will the farmer know if any of the animals are lost?

### Recording

Shall we take a photograph of your farm?

Let's make a picture of your farm.

