

Literature Connections—Barnyard Dance (by Sandra Boynton), by ST

1. Read Barnyard Dance by Sandra Boynton in a theatrical manner
2. Build a barn with Lincoln Logs, Jenga blocks, or other building toys
3. Dress up with cowboy hats, bandanas, gingham skirts and scarves (or bonnets)
4. Learn the “The Barn Dance” song (performed by Gary Bennett):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhYD7JrDRkM>
5. Make a barn band with instruments you have at home, or, homemade instruments
6. Watch and imitate a square dance video
7. Have some refreshments such as you might find at a barn dance
  - a. “Johnny Appleseed” video shows all kinds of apple goodies at a barn dance
  - b. See also “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers” movie
  - c. “The Old Barn Dance” Gene Autry movie from 1938
8. Make a farm picture—you might use animal stencils
9. Play “Hide & Seek in the Barn”: hide a toy animal in a room chosen as “the barn”. You may give clues where the seeker may find the toy, such as singing “Baa, Baa, Black Sheep”, “The Old Gray Mare”, “Go Tell Aunt Rhodie”, “Mary Had a Little Lamb”, or another animal song louder as the seeker gets closer, or softer as the seeker gets further away. Another option is to “sing” the song with each person singing in a farm animal voice.
10. Read other barn dance books, such as:
  - a. Barn Dance! By Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault
  - b. Barn Dance! By Pat Hutchins
11. Play a farm chore relay by pretending to do a series of farm chores, such as Milk the cow, feed the animals, bring in a bucket of water, gather eggs, hoe in the garden, fill the wood box—see:  
[https://livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe30s/life\\_05.html](https://livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe30s/life_05.html)
12. Read other farm/barn/farm animal stories, such as,
  - a. A Surprise in the Barn by Jane Flory
  - b. The Bremen Town Musicians: And Other Animal Tales from Grimm by Doris Orgel
  - c. Once Upon a Farm by Bob Artley (may be a browsing book for young kids)
13. Read about barn cats or barn owls
  - a. Barn Cat: A Counting Book by Carol P. Saul
  - b. The Barn Owls by Tony Johnston
14. Barns often have weather vanes on top; make a weather vane, instructions online.
15. Barns are often full of hay (food for the animals in winter) . . .
  - a. Visit a farm and play in the barn in the hay
  - b. Read Hey, Hey, Hay! By Christy Mihaly
  - c. Read stories from Hay for My Ox and Other Stories: A First Reading Book for Waldorf Schools by Isabel Wyatt
  - d. Browse: Small-Scale Haymaking by Spencer Yost
16. Visit a farm store