

This book takes a trip through a zoo, showing the opposites of the animals who live there. It prompts readers to consider contrasts and categories that help define differences.

### CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

### INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

#### THINK



#### Children will:

- ◆ Compare based on one or more differences or similarities

#### Teachers will:

- ◆ Prompt children to compare, contrast, and categorize

### TEACHING TIP

Promoting inquiry skills means prompting children to analyze things closer to better understand them. Supporting children in asking and answering questions means helping them extend their thinking. To go beyond wondering and free exploration, we can prompt children to observe more closely, consider similarities and differences, and come to new ideas and understanding. Prompt children to consider patterns, relationships, and potential categories to extend their understanding of the world around them.

### 1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ “Today we’re going to read a book called *The Opposite Zoo* and take a trip to see some animals. I wonder what you’ll notice about how these animals look the same or different.”

### 2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause to model making comparisons.
- ◆ Prompt children to make additional observations and predictions about the animals in the book.

### Prompt Children to Compare, Contrast, and Categorize

**Read:** “Awake! Asleep...”

**Model:** “I noticed that the owl and panda are both spending their night in trees, and I can see that there’s a monkey back there too. These animals are different, but they all sleep in trees.”

**Prompt:** “What else is different between the owl and the panda? Do they look the same?”

**Read:** “Black, White”

**Model:** “I notice that the seals have fins, and the swans have feathers, but they are both animals that can swim. Maybe they swim in different ways.”

**Prompt:** “I see the monkey swimming. Do they have fins or feathers? What do they have that helps them swim?”

**Read:** “...for the Opposite Zoo to open!”

**Model:** “Each animal has a special place to live! I see that the lion and the panda both have grass, and the hippo and seals both have water.”

**Prompt:** “All of these animals live in different places. What can some animals do that others can’t in their homes?”

### 3. REVIEW

- ◆ “The animals in this zoo have many things that make them different, but they are also the same in some ways. Some animals look the same, and others act the same even if they look different. When we look closely, we can learn more about them.”

### 4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Use comparison and categorization to extend children’s explorations and predictions. When closely observing something, model comparison words like “similar” and “opposite.” If children are interested in a certain aspect of what you’re observing (e.g., texture), plan to bring in materials with an interesting variety of those traits for children to experiment with.