



## Oakie Acres



### Introduction to the Exhibit:

Welcome to Oakie Acres, home to Maggie the (life-size) cow, chickens and lots of other animals that call the farm “home.” Take a ride on our tractor, count and weigh the eggs, pump water for Maggie from the well and move the conveyer belt to give her hay to eat! When she’s ready to milk, tie on an apron, put on your boots, take a seat on the bench and get to work! Listen to some classical music while you milk the cow (can you find out why the radio in this exhibit is playing music?) and after you’re done, give

Maggie a bath with the hose. Check out the milk jugs full of interesting facts about the power of calcium and other nutrients in this delicious drink. Now pat yourself on the back for being such a strong, hard-working farmer!

### The Power of Play:

By recreating real-life people and situations, children learn about the world around them and discover key skills important for their success with peers. During play, children strengthen their discoveries about suitable behavior in various situations, as well as enhance their ability to think creatively. In addition to promoting the growth of imagination, improving memory and increasing vocabulary skills, the opportunity to engage in role play allows children the chance to learn valuable social and perspective-taking skills that they will continue to develop into their adult lives. This exhibit is an ideal place for undirected play to occur, which encourages children to share (“Can I milk the cow when you’re done?”), listen (“Did you say you want to pump the well”) and negotiate (“I’ll wear the boots and you wear the apron so we can both dress up”) while learning to work in pairs and/or groups. Role play (such as pretending to be a farmer or dairy hand) enables children to make choices and explore while developing language and leadership skills.

**ASK:** Where does milk come from? What animal provides us with eggs? Ask your child what he thinks it is like to live and work on a farm. Would he rather

take care of the animals or work out in the fields? What other foods come from a farm that we eat every day (cheese, corn, grains, lettuce, etc.)?

**LISTEN:** Listen to the classical music playing in the background. Does your child know why this is part of the exhibit? Listen to how your child interacts with other children as he role plays milking the cow or driving the tractor. Push and listen to the ‘chicken’ button. Make the same noise with your child!

**LOOK:** Watch your child weigh the eggs. What happens when more eggs are added to the scale? See your child observe how the water trough and hay conveyor belt work. Does she try to figure them out on her own or ask for your help? Read the milk facts on the turn table and share them with your child. Can you find the “cow” button? Where is the cattle call horn?

**Key Vocabulary WORDS to USE in This Exhibit**

dairy		cow		vitamins	
	calcium		udder		milk
farm		chicken		egg	
	nutritious		protein		animal
tractor		harvest		farmer	

**After Your Visit: The Learning Continues!**

Encourage your child to identify foods in your kitchen that come from a farm and help him create wholesome meal ideas featuring these items. How about enjoying a delicious omelette (using eggs from a chicken) with cheese (made from cow’s milk)? Perhaps you’d prefer some fresh bread made from grains harvested by the farmer on the tractor? Sing “Old MacDonald Had a Farm” with your child as you prepare a tasty snack featuring food created by our farm animal friends!

*\*We carefully choose the props and toys included in our exhibits. All of these items are in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) lead testing standards.*