Cows do more than just moo on the farm ... they allow us to make dairy products like milk, cheese, and yogurt. In this lesson, students will learn about how dairy farms help provide nutrition from the dairy group. Early learners will take a journey through various hands-on activities to learn how milk goes from the cow to the dinner table, and which foods are made from milk.

**Learning Objectives**

After finishing the lesson, students will know the steps it takes for the dairy farm to get milk from a cow, what foods are made from milk, and how to make homemade butter.

**Materials and Preparation**

- *Out and About at the Dairy Farm* by Andy Murphy
- *A Day at the Dairy Farm* by Laura K. Marshall
- Heavy whipping cream
- Milk products for children to try
- Crackers or bread
- Grocery ads
- Paper plates
- Glue
- Scissors

**Key Terms**

- dairy
- cows
- Holstein cow
- Silage
- udder
- footbath

**Introduction (10 minutes)**

- Activate prior knowledge by asking your class about products that are made from milk.
- Read *Out and About at the Dairy Farm* aloud to your students.
- Ask your students questions to gauge listening comprehension. Suggestions include: What did you learn in this story? What was your favorite part of the story?
- Show your class images of real-life dairy farm with the book, *A Day at the Dairy Farm*.
- Be sure to show them how cows have to be kept clean just like us, and need food to grow. Show the children the picture of silage, and tell them it is made from corn.

**Explicit Instruction/Teacher Modeling (5 minutes)**

- After skimming *A Day at the Dairy Farm*, invite your students to look at the last page, with the dairy items.
- Ask your students which foods are made from milk.
- Once students have shared their answers, explain that dairy farms provide milk for us to drink. They also make other dairy products, such as butter, cheese, yogurt, and ice cream.

**Guided Practice/Interactive Modeling (5 minutes)**

- Make a list of the new vocabulary words on a whiteboard or on a large sheet of butcher paper, so students can see them easily. Words include: dairy, cows, Holstein cow, silage, udder, footbath
- Explain what each word means.
- To help reinforce this understanding, make flashcards with pictures and the vocabulary words.
Independent Working Time (25 minutes)

- Set up different dairy centers.
- Put the grocery ads, glue, and paper plates at one activity center. Tell the students that here, they will look for dairy items in the grocery ads. When they find dairy products, cut the products out for them.
- Have students glue the dairy products to a paper plate.
- Put the unopened container of heavy whipping cream at the second activity center.
- Have students take turns shaking the heavy whipping cream, to make butter. It should take about 10 minutes to form, depending on your shakers.
- Once the cream feels solid, open up the container and spread the butter on crackers or bread.
- Set up a "tasting station" as the third and final activity center. Set out the dairy products you brought in, and have kids take turns trying them.

Differentiation

- **Enrichment**: Give students with more fine motor skills ads to identify dairy products, and allow them to cut and glue the pictures on their own.
- **Support**: Find and cut out pictures of dairy products for students who need support. They can choose from the pile, and glue their choices on to their plate.

Assessment (5 minutes)

- To assess student understanding, review whether or not students were able to retell the story (or parts of the story) back to you. Were they able to answer listening comprehension questions?
- Could the students identify dairy products in the grocery ads?
- Show the vocabulary cards to the class, and see what the students remember.

Review and Closing (10 minutes)

- Have the new vocabulary word cards available all week or even two weeks for students to review.
- Re-read the stories during centers and free time. Even if children are looking at the books by themselves, it will still help them retain what they've learned.
- Have the books available for students to look through.

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