

At the Farm

Laura Gates Galvin

David Austin Clar, Illustrator

Studio Mouse (April 2006)

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Farm Fun. As technology changes, learning activities do as well. Studio Mouse has released several lines of box sets with audio CDs for the tech-savvy toddler.

At the Farm, from the “Learn & Carry” line (978-1-59069-484-8), includes four small picture books and a CD in a convenient box complete with a child-sized handle, making this educational set a portable toy as well. The four board books—*Shannon the Sheep*, *Clara the Cow*, *Charlie the Chick*, and *Pinky the Pig*—introduce children ages two to five to life on the farm. Within the pages, Charlie is hatched from an egg, Shannon is shorn by Farmer John, and Pinky bathes in the mud to stay cool.

The illustrations of the friendly, smiling livestock by David Austin Clar are set against colorful backgrounds and the short text by Laura Gates Galvin reiterates the animal sounds that readers and listeners will already know: “Moo! Clara the cow says hello.” The animals also display impeccable manners: “Here comes Farmer John with some fresh water. Thank you. Farmer John!”

The audio CD features narration of each story with page-turn cues and an original song, “Down on the Farm,” whose repetition and melodies promise to captivate young listeners.

A fun and informative set that transports young readers to life in the stable.

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