

All About Cats

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

Here are ideas and activities to try this week with your child. Each activity is based on one of the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles of early literacy development and is designed to engage your child, stimulate his or her literacy skills, and enhance the bonds between you.

- **SHARE BOOKS** When reading to your child, ask simple questions like: What do you think will happen next? or Where is the cat going? This helps your child develop predicting skills.
- **SHARE WORDS** Introduce your child to some new words by talking about cat breeds: Maine coon, Manx, Persian, Siamese, and Burmese are examples.
- **SHARE RHYMES** Share rhyme chains with your child for a fun game. Say two words that can be rhymed easily, and see if your child can give another word that rhymes. For example, say “cat,” and then a word that rhymes, such as “hat,” then have your child continue with another rhyming word such as “bat.” Continue going back and forth until neither of you can think of another word. Then choose a new word to start the rhyme chain again.
- **SHARE SONGS** Make up new verses for the song “Cat Goes Fiddle-I-Fee,” which we sang in storytime. What other animals can your child think of and what sounds do those animals make?
- **SHARE STORIES** Make up a story about an adventurous cat, and have your child make decisions in the story, such as the name of the cat, where he is going, or who he meets.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Do some “cat” creative dramatics with your child: roll over like a cat, stalk like a cat, stretch like a cat, paw your face like a cat, and curl into a ball like a cat.
- **SHARE WRITING** Ask your child to draw a picture of a cat and an adventure he will go on. Have your child dictate the story while you write it beneath the picture.

Here are the words to the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with your child throughout the week, you will help him or her make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

Songs

Moving Hands

(sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”)

Put your hands on your head, (*Suit motions to words*)
Put your hands on your knees,
Put your hands behind you now,
If you please.

Put your hands on your tummy,
Put your hands on your toes,
Put your hands upon your cheeks,
Put them on your nose.

Put your hands in the air,
Put your hands on your hair,
Clap your hands, one, two, three,
Then fold them on your knees.

Fifi

(sung to the tune of “Reuben, Reuben”)

I’ve a cat, her name is Fifi
(*Make fist with one hand, and pet with the other*)
She is just a ball of fur,
She likes to sleep curled in my lap, (*Pat lap*)
Rub her neck and she will purr.
(*Point to neck, then repeat petting motion above*)

I’ve a cat, her name is Fifi
Mice and birds she likes to chase,
(*Wiggle fingers and move around in a chase*)
I put a bell upon her collar, (*Point to neck*)
When they hear it, they do race! (*Cup ear, then make fingers race*)

I’ve a cat, her name is Fifi, (*Repeat motions as above*)
She is just a ball of fur,
She likes to sleep curled in my lap
Rub her neck and she will purr.

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Cat Goes Fiddle-I-Fee

(Have child make motions like the individual animals, and join in on sounds)

I had a cat
And the cat pleased me,
I fed my cat
By yonder tree.
Cat goes fiddle-i-fee.

I had a cow,
And the cow pleased me,
I fed my cow
By yonder tree.
Cow goes moo, moo, moo,
Cat goes fiddle-i-fee.

I had a hen,
And the hen pleased me,
I fed my hen
By yonder tree.
Hen goes cluck, cluck, cluck,
Cow goes moo, moo, moo,
Cat goes fiddle-i-fee.

Additional Verses

Goose (swishy, swashy, swishy)
Sheep (baa, baa, baa)
Duck (quack, quack, quack)
Horse (neigh, neigh, neigh)
Dog (woof, woof, woof)

Itsy Bitsy Kitten

(sung to the tune of "Itsy Bitsy Spider")

The itsy bitsy kitten *(Move fingers on one hand like cat's claws)*
Climbed up the apple tree,
(Hold up other arm, bent at elbow, for a tree)
Down came the rain
(Wiggle fingers on both hands from high to low like rain)
And made the kitten flee. *(Hide hands behind back)*
Up came the sun *(Make sun over head with both arms)*
And dried up all the rain.
And the itsy bitsy kitten *(Make motions for kitten and tree)*
Went up the tree again.
(Repeat)

Library Storytime Song

(sung to the tune of "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad")

I came to my storytime
(Sway from side to side throughout and point to self)
At the library today,
I came to my storytime *(Point to self)*
To sing, and laugh, and play,
I listened to some picture books,
Sang songs, said some rhymes,
I hope I can come back again,
Because I had a very good time!

I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
I want to come back to storytime!
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
To my storytime!
(Spoken) See you soon! *(Wave goodbye)*

Rhymes

Old Fat Cat

The old fat cat is sleeping, sleeping, sleeping.
(Fold hands under head as if sleeping)
The old fat cat is sleeping in the house.

The little mice are creeping, creeping, creeping.
(Move fingers like mice creeping)
The little mice are creeping through the house.

The old fat cat is waking, waking, waking.
(Stretch arms like when waking up)
The old fat cat is waking through the house.

The old fat cat is chasing, chasing, chasing.
(Move fists up and down very fast)
The old fat cat is chasing through the house.

All the mice are squealing, squealing, squealing.
(Tap fingers against thumbs and squeal "EEK")
All the mice are squealing through the house.

Hey, Diddle, Diddle

(Have your child stand and clap to the beat for all four lines, jump on the word "JUMP!" and run in place on the word "RUN!")
Hey, diddle, diddle, the cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon. JUMP!
The little dog laughed to see such a sight,
And the dish ran away with the spoon. RUN!

Pete's Four Groovy Buttons

Pete has four groovy buttons, *(Hold up four fingers)*
Can you count them with me?
(Hold up hand with all fingers extended)
One aqua, one blue, one green, one red,
(Point to one finger at a time, starting with thumb)
And this one is his belly button!
(Wiggle little finger; then point to belly button)