

# All About Cats

## Presenter Tip Sheet

### About This Storytime

Cats are popular pets, so this topic should be well-liked by preschoolers. It includes an old traditional song and nursery rhyme and an introduction to a modern-day cat.

### Books

For books to share in this storytime, pick three from the list below, or choose other books in your collection that reflect the theme and are developmentally appropriate for fours and fives. Always share your longest book first. For your second, try to choose a participatory book that engages the children and ask the caregivers to join in. For the third and last story, share a book told through the use of a flannel board or magnetic board, or use a prop or other visual. The examples provided in the storytime program fit these guidelines.

#### Book Suggestions:

- *Cat Goes Fiddle-i-fee*, by Paul Galdone (HMH, 1988)
- *Drat That Fat Cat!* by Pat Thomson (Arthur A. Levine, 2003)
- *Feathers for Lunch*, by Lois Ehlert (HMH, 1990)
- *If You Give a Cat a Cupcake*, by Laura Numeroff (HarperCollins, 2008)
- *Mama Cat Has Three Kittens*, by Denise Fleming (Henry Holt, 1998)
- *Millions of Cats*, by Wanda Gag (Putnam, 1952)
- *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes*, by Eric Litwin (HarperCollins, 2010)
- *Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons*, by Eric Litwin (HarperCollins, 2012)
- *There Are Cats in This Book*, by Viviane Schwarz (Candlewick, 2008)
- *Three Little Kittens*, by Jerry Pinkney (Dial, 2010) (also a version by Paul Galdone)

### Songs

This storytime includes five songs. The same opening song and closing song should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. Always provide some type of movement or motions to accompany each song. Using recorded music during the storytime is fine, but try to sing some songs with a live voice so that children can hear the words and the sounds making up each word. The Very Ready Reading Program includes CDs with all the songs in the storytimes, recorded at an appropriate tempo for this age group. Track numbers for each recording are provided in the songlist below and on the storytime program card.

#### Songs for This Storytime:

- Opening Song: “Moving Hands” (sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”) 🎧 2.08 🎶 2.09
- “Fifi” (sung to the tune of “Reuben, Reuben”) 🎧 1.18
- “Cat Goes Fiddle-I-Fee” 🎧 1.07
- “Itsy Bitsy Kitten” (sung to the tune of “Itsy Bitsy Spider”) 🎧 1.30
- Closing Song: “Library Storytime Song” (sung to the tune of “I’ve Been Workin’ on the Railroad”) 🎧 2.01 🎶 2.02

#### Alternate Songs

- “I Love Little Kitty” by Pamela Beall and Susan Nipp, *Wee Sing: Animals, Animals, Animals*. Music Design, 2006.
- “Three Little Kittens” by Pamela Beall and Susan Nipp, *Wee Sing: Nursery Rhymes and Lullabies*. Price Stern Sloan, 2006.
- “Three Little Kittens” by Dr. Jean, *Nursery Rhymes and Good Ol’ Times*. Music Design, 2007.
- “El Señor Don Gato” by Schiller Educational Resources, *Critters and Company*. Schiller Educational Resources, LLC, 2005.

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## Rhymes

This storytime includes three rhymes. The rhymes used in these storytimes have motions that are appropriate for fours and fives with developing fine motor skills.

### Rhymes for This Storytime:

- “Old Fat Cat”
- “Hey, Diddle, Diddle”
- “Pete’s Four Groovy Buttons”

## Activities

This storytime includes an optional theme-related activity, to be completed after the closing song. Below are three to choose from. The activity you choose might depend on the size or predominant age of your audience, the amount of time you have to prepare, your space or environment, and the materials needed. The activities are designed with safety and the attention spans and fine motor abilities of fours and fives in mind. However, always keep in mind and remind caregivers:

**Any time an activity involves materials such as paint, sand, string, or small pieces, close adult supervision is required.** Although each activity has a learning aspect, the emphasis should be on fun!

### Activity Suggestions:

**Cat Walk.** Make a masking tape line on the floor, and invite children to walk it like a cat walks on a fence top. Provide beanbags for children to carry on their heads.

**Paper Plate Cat.** Provide a 6-inch and an 8-inch paper plate for each child, along with glue, tempera paint, markers, chenille stems, construction paper, toothpicks, and wiggle eyes for children to share. Encourage the children to glue the small plate to the larger plate to create a cat (head and body). Encourage them to paint their cats (or use colored plates if you want to avoid using paint) and add construction paper ears and a tail. Have children use the markers for facial features, chenille stems or toothpicks for whiskers, and wiggle eyes for eyes.

**Feed the Cat.** Download the cat face pattern from [www.upstartpromotions.com/upstart/pages/reproducibles](http://www.upstartpromotions.com/upstart/pages/reproducibles) and print on card stock. Cut out the mouth of the cat. Place the face with the open mouth on top of an empty half-gallon ice cream container or bucket. Make a fishing pole by attaching a piece of yarn to a wooden dowel. Place a large paper clip on the other end of the yarn. Cut a fish from construction paper, and hang it on the paper clip. Challenge the children to feed the cat by placing the fish on the line into the cat’s mouth. You may want to make several “cat stations” and fishing poles if you have a large group of children. Also, you may wish to make a copy of the cat face pattern for each child to enjoy the activity at home.



## Early Literacy Tips

Throughout each storytime program, you’ll find yellow boxes that feature early literacy tips. As you present your program, share these tips with parents and caregivers to help promote the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles. The tips are designed to easily be infused into the storytime without interrupting the natural flow of the program for children. The Caregiver Tip Sheets you will hand out at the end of each program reiterate the literacy tips you shared during the storytime.