

All About Me!

Tips 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.

- 1. SHARE BOOKS** Always have books available and within your child's reach. Accept that there will be wear and tear while your baby learns how to use and take care of a book.
- 2. SHARE SOUNDS** Listen to the sounds that your baby is making, and make them right back. Then make words out of those sounds (for example, turn "ma-ma" into "mommy"). These simple syllables are the building blocks for language.
- 3. SHARE WORDS** Name all of the things in your baby's daily routine, and especially the things that relate directly to your baby's body parts—fingers, toes, belly, nose. All of these vocabulary builders are endlessly fascinating topics for your baby.
- 4. SHARE RHYMES** The simple rhymes we did in storytime are easy to memorize, and your child will appreciate hearing them over and over again. Repetition is important for learning vocabulary.
- 5. SHARE SONGS** Share songs from today's storytime, and make a new habit of singing every night at bedtime. "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" is always a favorite.
- 6. SHARE STORIES** You can use baby dolls, puppets, or stuffed animals to act out stories related to your baby's day.
- 7. SHARE PLAYTIME** "Where are baby's hands?" is a fun game to play. Sit on the floor with your baby or young toddler facing you. Lay a blanket over your lap, and recite a rhyme while playing the game. Hide your baby's hands under the blanket on the third line, and then bring them out again at the end. Repeat with other body parts. (Rhyme: Clap your hands, one, two, three. / Clap your hands along with me. / Now your hands have gone away. / Let's find your hands so we can play!)

Songs and Rhymes for All About Me!

Here are the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with them every day, you will help your child make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

Songs

If You're Happy to Be Here

(sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, (*Clap hands*)
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, (*Clap hands*)
If you're happy to be here, then place a smile there, (*Point to mouth*)
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands. (*Clap hands*)

If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, (*Clap hands*)
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, (*Clap hands*)
If you're ready to have some fun, then join in everyone,
(*Motion hands to join in*)
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands. (*Clap hands*)

Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes

Sing very slowly and touch your baby's body, or have young toddlers touch their own body.

Head, shoulders, knees, and toes—knees and toes.
(*Touch each body part when named*)
Head, shoulders, knees, and toes—knees and toes.
And eyes, and ears, and mouth, and nose,
Head, shoulders, knees, and toes—knees and toes.
(*Repeat*)

Where Is Thumbkin?

(sung to the tune of "Frere Jacques/Are You Sleeping?")

Where is Thumbkin? Where is Thumbkin?
(*Show one fist, then the other*)
Here I am! Here I am! (*Show one thumb, then the other*)
How are you today, sir? Very well, I thank you.
(*Wiggle one thumb, then the other*)
Run away, run away. (*Hide fists again, one at a time*)

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star, (*Open and close hands*)
How I wonder what you are,
Up above the world so high, (*Move hands slowly overhead*)
Like a diamond in the sky,
Twinkle, twinkle, little star, (*Move hands back down*)
How I wonder what you are.

The More We Get Together

The more we get together, (*Sway from side to side in time to music*)
Together, together,
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.
For your friends are my friends, (*Point to child, then to self*)
And my friends are your friends, (*Point to self, then to child*)
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.

Additional Verse

The more we play together...

Rhymes

One, Two, Three

One, two, three, baby's on my knee, (*Bounce on each count*)
Rooster crows, cock-a-doodle-doo! (*More bouncing*)
And away she goes! (*Lift baby into the air*)

Open, Shut Them

Open, shut them; open, shut them,
(*Open and shut hands in front of body*)
Give them both a clap, clap, clap! (*Clap hands*)
Open, shut them; open, shut them,
Put them in your lap, lap, lap. (*Place hands in lap*)
Creep them, creep them, slowly creep them,
(*Creep hands up arms*)
Right up to your chinny chin chin, (*Tickle chin*)
Circle 'round your little mouth, but do not let them in!
(*Circle finger around mouth*)

Here Are Baby's Fingers

Here are baby's fingers, (*Touch baby's fingers*)
Here are baby's toes, (*Touch baby's toes*)
Here is baby's belly button, (*Touch baby's belly button*)
Round and round it goes! (*Circle baby's belly button!*)
Here are baby's elbows, (*Touch baby's elbows*)
Here are baby's knees, (*Touch baby's knees*)
Here is baby's little chin, (*Touch baby's chin*)
Tickle if you please! (*Tickle baby's chin!*)