

All in the Family

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** There are many books for babies and young toddlers about different family members and different kinds of families, but just about any book your child is interested in will be a good one. Your child's own baby book is sure to be a favorite!
- 2. SHARE SOUNDS** "Mama" and "dada" are among the first sounds that a baby makes. Acknowledge your baby's babble and coos, and encourage more by engaging in "babble-friendly" conversation (combinations of consonants and vowels).
- 3. SHARE WORDS** Look at family albums together and talk to your baby about the people in them. Which one is mommy's mommy? The names of family members and their titles are all important words for your child to learn.
- 4. SHARE RHYMES** Babies love to hear their favorite rhymes over and over. The repetition helps them learn and understand the sounds and rhythms of words. Throughout the week, recite the rhymes from today's storytime with your baby.
- 5. SHARE SONGS** Make a song or a chant out of your baby's name by rhyming it with real or nonsense words. Repeat the song with your own name and other familiar names.
- 6. SHARE STORIES** Pictures in family photo albums are likely to spark memories of stories that your child would love to hear. Share the stories with your child as you reminisce.
- 7. SHARE PLAYTIME** Use toys and stuffed animals to make a little "family" for your child, or make a puppet family by using socks.

Songs and Rhymes for All in the Family

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)*

One Is a Father

(sung to the tune of "Up on the Housetop")

One is a father, short and stout, *(Wiggle child's thumb or big toe)*
Two is a mother with children about, *(Wiggle next finger or toe)*
Three is a brother, so tall you see, *(Wiggle third finger or toe)*
Four is a sister with a puppy on her knee. *(Wiggle fourth finger or toe)*
Oh, oh, oh, wouldn't you know? *(Bounce or sway side to side)*
Oh, oh, oh, wouldn't you know?
Five is a baby sure to grow, *(Wiggle last finger or toe)*
And here is a family, all in a row. *(Hold up hand or foot and shake!)*

(Repeat with other hand or foot)

You Are My Sunshine

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine,
(Bounce baby on lap or swing from side to side)
You make me happy, when skies are gray,
You'll never know, dear, how much I love you,
Please don't take my sunshine away.

Five in the Bed

There were five in the bed, and the little one said,
"Roll over! Roll over!"
So they all rolled over,
And one fell out!

Additional Verses

There were four in the bed ...
There were three in the bed ...
There were two in the bed ...

There was one in bed, and the little one said, "Good night!"
(Rest head on hands)

The More We Get Together

The more we get together,
(Sway child 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

Mother and Father and Uncle John

Mother and Father and Uncle John *(Bounce baby gently)*
Went to town, one by one,
And mother fell off, *(Lean baby off to the side)*
And father fell off, *(Lean off to the other side)*
But Uncle John went on and on! *(More bouncing)*

Jack and Jill

Jack and Jill went up the hill *(Lift baby up and down on lap)*
To fetch a pail of water.
Jack fell down and broke his crown,
(From high in air, swing baby down between knees)
And Jill came tumbling after! *(Repeat high up, swing down)*

Pony Boy and Pony Girl

Pony Boy, Pony Boy, *(Bounce on lap or on ankle of crossed leg)*
Won't you be my Pony Boy?
Don't say no! Here we go!
Giddy up, giddy up, giddy up, WHOA! *(Bounce way up high!)*
(Repeat with "Pony Girl")