

Barnyard Tales

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** Ask simple questions when reading to your child so that your child can participate in the storytelling. Examples of appropriate questions include: What is this? What do you see on this page? What's happening here?
- **SHARE WORDS** Provide experiences for your child that will introduce new words, such as visiting a farm or going to a zoo.
- **SHARE RHYMES** Share nursery rhymes with your child. Literacy experts suggest that children who know eight nursery rhymes by heart at age four will be among the best readers by the time they are eight years old.
- **SHARE SONGS** There are numerous songs your child should be introduced to that are about farms and farm animals. In addition to those we shared in storytime, these include "Bingo," "Five Little Ducks," "Old MacDonald Had a Farm," and "Mary Had a Little Lamb."
- **SHARE STORIES** Research shows that a child's ability to tell stories will help her understand what she reads. As you share a book together, ask your child to retell the story using the illustrations as visual cues.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Act out "The Farmer in the Dell" with stuffed animals or other toys.
- **SHARE WRITING** Ask your child to draw a picture about a story you have shared.

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 actions 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.

Down on Grandpa's Farm

We're on our way, we're on our way,
on our way to Grandpa's farm.
We're on our way, we're on our way,
on our way to Grandpa's farm.

Down on Grandpa's farm, there is a little red hen.
Down on Grandpa's farm, there is a little red hen.
The hen, she makes a sound like this: Cluck! Cluck!
The hen, she makes a sound like this: Cluck! Cluck!

We're on our way, we're on our way,
on our way to Grandpa's farm.
We're on our way, we're on our way,
on our way to Grandpa's farm.

Down on Grandpa's farm, there is a big brown cow.
Down on Grandpa's farm, there is a big brown cow.
The cow, she makes a sound like this: Moooooooo!
The cow, she makes a sound like this: Moooooooo!

We're on our way, we're on our way,
on our way to Grandpa's farm.
We're on our way, we're on our way,
on our way to Grandpa's farm,

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Down on Grandpa's farm, there is a little white duck.
Down on Grandpa's farm, there is a little white duck.
The duck, he makes a sound like this: Quack! Quack!
The duck, he makes a sound like this: Quack! Quack!

We're on our way, we're on our way,
on our way to Grandpa's farm.
We're on our way, we're on our way,
on our way to Grandpa's farm.

Additional Verses

Down on Grandpa's farm, there is a big black dog (Ruff! Ruff!)
Down on Grandpa's farm, there is a little white sheep (Baa! Baa!)
Down on Grandpa's farm, there is a big brown horse (Neigh!
Neigh!)

The Farmer in the Dell

(Sing the song and pause, letting your child say the character name)

The farmer in the dell
The farmer in the dell
Heigh-ho the derry-o
The farmer in the dell.

The farmer takes the wife
The farmer takes the wife
Heigh-ho the derry-o
The farmer takes the wife

Additional Verses

The wife takes the child ...
The child takes the cow ...
The cow takes the pig ...
The pig takes the dog ...
The dog takes the cat ...
The cat takes the mouse ...
The mouse takes the cheese ...
The cheese stands alone ...

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

Did You Feed My Cow?

(Child echoes the words in parentheses)
Did you feed my cow? (Yes, ma'am)
Could you tell me how? (Yes, ma'am)
What did you feed her? (Corn and hay)
What did you feed her? (Corn and hay)

Did you milk her good? (Yes, ma'am)
Now did you milk her like you should? (Yes, ma'am)
How did you milk her? (Squish, squish, squish)
How did you milk her? (Squish, squish, squish)

This Little Cow

(Hold up one hand and wiggle each finger as you say the lines, ending with your little finger)
This little cow eats grass,
This little cow eats hay,
This little cow drinks water,
This little cow runs away,
And this little cow does nothing
But lie down all the day.

Little Chicks

The little chicks say peep, peep, peep.
(Tap fingers on thumbs on "peep")
They're cold and hungry—they can't sleep. *(Rub tummy)*
Mother hen finds corn and wheat, *(Peck left hand with right fingers)*
And baby chicks happily eat. *(Touch mouth)*
Mother hen opens her arms, *(Open arms)*
And babies sleep full and warm. *(Lay head on hands)*
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