

Barnyard Tales

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

While some children live on farms or in the country, others may have only heard about farms through books, movies, or television. Children in this age range enjoy making animal sounds, and they can begin to understand that we get food from some farm animals. This storytime features many classic songs that children should know.

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:

- *Barnyard Banter*, by Denise Fleming (Henry Holt, 1994)
- *The Cow Who Loves Cookies*, by Karma Wilson (McElderry, 2010)
- *Chuck's Truck*, by Peggy Perry Anderson (HMH, 2006)
- *Down on the Farm*, by Merrily Kutner (Holiday House, 2004)
- *The Farmer in the Dell*, illustrated by Pam Adams (Child's Play, 2001)
- *Farmyard Beat*, by Lindsey Craig (Knopf, 2012)
- *The Flea's Sneeze*, by Lynn Downey (Henry Holt, 2000)
- *My Farm Friends*, by Wendell Minor (Putnam, 2011)
- *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*, by Jane Cabrera (Holiday House, 2008)
- *Old MacDonald Had a Woodshop*, by Lisa Shulman (Putnam, 2002)

Songs

This storytime includes four 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:

- "Moving Hands" (sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell") 🎧 2.08 🎵 2.09
- "Down on Grandpa's Farm" 🎧 1.15
- "The Farmer in the Dell" 🎧 1.17
- Closing Song: "Library Storytime Song" (sung to the tune of "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad") 🎧 2.01 🎵 2.02

Alternate Songs:

- "New Chicken Dance" by The Learning Station, *La Di Da, La Di Di, Dance With Me*. Hug-A-Chug Records, 2004.
- "The Little Red Hen" by Greg and Steve, *Fun and Games*. Greg and Steve Productions, 2002.
- "The Chicken Song" by Pamela Beall and Susan Nipp, *Wee Sing: In the Car*. Price Stern Sloan, 2005.
- "Cock-A-Doodle-Do" by The Learning Station, *Here We Go Loopty Loo*. Hug-A-Chug Records, 1998.
- "Little Bo-Peep" by Pamela Beall and Susan Nipp, *Wee Sing: Nursery Rhymes and Lullabies*. Price Stern Sloan, 2006.
- "Mary Had a Little Lamb" by Pamela Beall and Susan Nipp, *Wee Sing: Nursery Rhymes and Lullabies*. Price Stern Sloan, 2006.
- "Mary Had a Little Lamb" by Dr. Jean, *Nursery Rhymes and Good Ol' Times*. Music Design, 2007.
- "Five Little Ducks" by Pamela Beall and Susan Nipp, *Wee Sing: Animals, Animals, Animals*. Music Design, 2006.

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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:

- “This Little Cow”
- “Little Chicks”
- “Did You Feed My Cow?” (Can also be sung. See: www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfmUFe905Zg)

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 having fun!

Activity Suggestions:

Farmer Says. Play the game Farmer Says just like Simon Says. (Children follow the leader’s directions only when the leader says “Farmer says.”)

The Chicken Dance. Children love to dance. Have them do the chicken dance to music. Recordings that have “The Chicken Dance” include: *Big Fun* by Greg and Steve and *La Di Da La Di Di Dance with Me* by The Learning Station.

Mommy and Baby Farm Animals Matching Game.

Download and prepare one set of Mommy and Baby Animal Cards from www.upstartpromotions.com/upstart/pages/reproducibles for each child. Have children first match the animal moms to their babies and then name the babies. Then pick three of the animal pairs for a game of memory or concentration. Mix up the cards and lay them face down on a surface, and invite children to try to turn over pairs. Animals include: horse/foal, cow/calf, sheep/lamb, and duck/duckling.



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.