

Bears, Bears Everywhere!

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** When you find a subject that your child is interested in, ask your librarian for some books on that subject. Try to read some simple nonfiction books to your child often so that she can learn about her world.
- **SHARE WORDS** The storytime theme today introduced the word “hibernation.” Never be afraid to introduce what might seem like a hard word for your child. Simply explain the term in context. Give examples of animals that hibernate as well as those that don’t. Use the new word a few times, and in no time your child will add this word to his vocabulary. This is the way your child learns new words and increases his vocabulary.
- **SHARE RHYMES** Repeat favorite rhymes often so that your child learns them and will eventually join in. This helps your child with narrative skills—an important early literacy skill.
- **SHARE SONGS** When singing songs to your child, emphasize the syllables so that your child can hear the smaller sounds in words. This will help your child break unfamiliar words apart when learning to read.
- **SHARE STORIES** Make up a new “Goldilocks” story, substituting your child’s name. See if she can help tell any part of the story.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Act out the three bears story with teddy bears. The “Goldilocks” rhyme we used in storytime is fun to play with your child at home!
- **SHARE WRITING** Keep a supply of pads of paper, chubby crayons, and washable markers where your child can reach them. Ask him to draw a picture for you about a story you read, realizing that it might be just a few scribbles.

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

It’s Time for Storytime

(sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”)

It’s time for storytime, (*Clap hands to beat*)
It’s time for storytime,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
It’s time for storytime.

We listen to some stories, (*Two fingers point to ears*)
We listen to some stories,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
We listen to some stories.

We sing some songs and rhymes, (*Two fingers point to mouth*)
We sing some songs and rhymes,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
We sing some songs and rhymes.

And now we’ll have some fun, (*Pat knees or legs*)
And now we’ll have some fun,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
And now we’ll have some fun!

Did You Ever See a Bear?

(sung to the tune of “The More We Get Together”)

(*Stand up and sway from side to side throughout song*)

Did you ever see a brown bear,
A brown bear, a brown bear,
Did you ever see a brown bear,
Move this way and that?
Move this way and that way,
And this way and that way?
Did you ever see a brown bear,
Move this way and that?

Additional Verses

Did you ever see a polar bear ...
Did you ever see a panda bear ...

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

The Bear Went Over the Mountain

(sung to the tune of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow")

The bear went over the mountain,
(*Make bear-walking motion*)
The bear went over the mountain,
The bear went over the mountain,
To see what he could see.
To see what he could see, (*Place hand at brow, looking around*)
To see what he could see,
The bear went over the mountain,
(*Make bear-walking motion*)
The bear went over the mountain,
The bear went over the mountain,
To see what he could see. (*Place hand at brow, looking around*)
And what do you think he saw? (*Spoken*)
The other side of the mountain,
The other side of the mountain,
The other side of the mountain,
Is all that he did see. So ...
The bear went down the mountain,
(*Make bear-walking motion*)
The bear went down the mountain,
The bear went down the mountain,
Very happily.

Bears Are Sleeping

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

Bears are sleeping, (*Pretend to sleep*)
Bears are sleeping.
In their lairs, in their lairs.
Soon it will be springtime,
Soon it will be springtime.
Wake up, bears! Wake up, bears! (*Wake up and stretch BIG*)
(*Repeat*)

Brown Bear, Brown Bear

(sung to the tune "Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Turn Around")

(*Do motions as described*)
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, turn around,
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, touch the ground,
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, show your shoe,
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, that will do!

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, go upstairs,
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, brush your hair,
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, turn out the lights,
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, say goodnight!

Rhymes/Creative Dramatics

Two Little Bear Cubs

Two little bear cubs (*Walk in place*)
Went out one day,
Over the meadow
Where they could play,
When they got hungry (*Rub tummy*)
They could not wait,
They smelled some honey (*Sniff, sniff*)
And ate and ate, (*Pretend to eat*)
Soon it was dark
But they were brave,
They ran back home (*Run in place*)
To hide in their cave.
(*Can also be sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"*)

Goldilocks

Goldilocks, Goldilocks,
Turn around, (*Turn in place*)
Goldilocks, Goldilocks,
Touch the ground, (*Touch ground*)
Goldilocks, Goldilocks,
Knock on the door, (*Pretend to knock*)
Goldilocks, Goldilocks,
Eat some porridge, (*Pretend to eat*)
Goldilocks, Goldilocks,
Have a seat (*Squat*)
Goldilocks, Goldilocks,
Go to sleep! (*Put cheek on folded hands*)
Goldilocks, Goldilocks,
Run, run, run! (*Run in place*)
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Wave Goodbye

Wave high. Wave low. (*Suit motions to words*)
I think it's time, we gotta go.
Wave your elbows. Wave your toes.
Wave your tongue and wave your nose.
Wave your knees. Wave your lips.
Blow a kiss, with fingertips.
Wave your ears. Wave your hair.
Wave your belly and derriere.
Wave your chin. Wave your eye.
Wave your hand and say "goodbye."
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