

Birdies in the Treetops

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** *Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!* is just one of a series of books about this character. Share more books about Mo Willems's pigeon or other characters that are favorites for your child. Research shows that a favorite character is a stimulus for children wanting to hear a book over and over again.
- **SHARE WORDS** Identify different types of birds that are common in your area, and share distinguishing characteristics of each bird with your child. This is a good way to introduce new vocabulary, such as sparrow, finch, robin, blue jay, cardinal, and mourning dove.
- **SHARE RHYMES** We shared two countdown rhymes and one countdown song in storytime. Rhymes and songs about numbers are a great way to build math skills! Discovering math and science concepts helps children acquire general knowledge that will make it easier for them to understand books when they learn to read.
- **SHARE SONGS** Invite your child to sing like a bird with you. Sing high, low, loudly, softly, fast, and slowly. This provides an opportunity to introduce music terminology (meter, pitch) and allows for rich language development.
- **SHARE STORIES** Make up stories about birds you see while you are in the car with your child or playing outdoors. Then have your child watch as you write the story down, or have your child help dictate a story as you write it.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Play a game of Simon Says with your child, using characteristics of birds for commands; for example, "use your wings to fly," "eat a worm," and "build a nest." This game is fun, and it allows for creative dramatics.

- **SHARE WRITING** Have your child sweep bird seed with a pastry brush from a cookie sheet into a funnel and into a container or bird feeder. This activity is great for developing the small muscles in the hands as well as hand-eye coordination. Both are necessary for writing.

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!

See the Pretty Little Bluebird

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

See the pretty little bluebird in the tree, (*Point up to tree*)
She looks for food like wiggly worms and seeds,
(*Shield eyes with hands and look around*)
When cats come out to play,
(*Make creeping motions with hands for cats*)
She quickly flies away. (*Flap arms*)
The pretty little bluebird in the tree. (*Point up to tree*)
(Repeat)

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The Birdies in the Treetops

The birdies in the treetops sing their song,
(Tap fingers against thumbs in a singing motion)
The froggies in the pond croak along,
(Tap fingers against thumbs in a croaking motion)
The sheep baa baa, and the cows moo moo,
(Hold both hands next to mouth to make sheep and cow noises)
So why shouldn't I, why shouldn't I sing along too?
(Tap fingers in a singing motion against thumbs)
(Repeat)

Three Blue Pigeons

(Have child flap both arms each time a pigeon flies away. Each time one returns, have her clap on "rejoice!")

Three blue pigeons, three blue pigeons, three blue pigeons
Sitting on a fence.
Oh look! One has flown away!

Two blue pigeons, two blue pigeons, two blue pigeons
Sitting on a fence.
Oh look! Another one has flown away!

One blue pigeon, one blue pigeon, one blue pigeon
Sitting on a fence.
Oh look! It has flown away too!

No blue pigeons, no blue pigeons, no blue pigeons
Sitting on a fence.
Oh look! One has returned! Let us rejoice!

One blue pigeon, one blue pigeon, one blue pigeon
Sitting on a fence.
Oh look! Another has returned! Let us rejoice!

Two blue pigeons, two blue pigeons, two blue pigeons
Sitting on a fence.
Oh look! The last has returned! Let us rejoice!

Three blue pigeons, three blue pigeons, three blue pigeons,
Sitting on a fence.
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Rhymes

Five Little Robins

Five little robins (Hold up child's hand)
Lived in a tree.
Father, Mother, (Point to thumb then point to pinkie)
And babies three. (Point to three middle fingers, one at a time)
Father caught a worm, (Make catching motion with one hand)
Mother caught a bug, (Make catching motion with other hand)
But three little babies said, "Ugh, ugh, ugh!"
(Point to three middle fingers, one at a time)

Five Little Owls

Five little owls on a starry night,
(Child holds up one hand; adult helps hold down one finger at a time)
Five little owls with eyes so bright,
One little owl decided to explore,
He flew away,
And then there were four.
Four little owls left in the tree,
One flew away,
And then there were three.
Three little owls,
Calling "Who, who, whoo,"
One flew away,
And then there were two.
Two little owls say,
"This is fun."
But one flew away,
And then there was one.
One feathered owl,
Sits all alone,
Looking for a friend,
To call his own.

I Saw a Blue Pigeon

I saw a blue pigeon go hop, hop, hop. (Child hops)
I told the blue pigeon to stop, stop, stop.
(Shake finger to "stop, stop, stop")
I went to the window to say "How do you do?"
(Make a hand-shaking motion)
But he wagged his blue tail and away he flew!
(Make flying motions with both arms)

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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