

Birdies in the Treetops

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

The nonfiction books listed for this storytime cover some simple facts about birds, helping children understand animals that are common in their world. During this storytime, remind parents and caregivers of the importance of sharing factual books with their children. By doing this, they take advantage of their child's natural curiosity and increase his or her vocabulary.

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 twos and threes. Always share your longest book first. For the second book, 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:

- *Birds*, by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow, 2009)
- *Bring On the Birds*, by Susan Stockdale (Peachtree, 2011)
- *Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!* by Mo Willems (Hyperion, 2006)
- *Feathers for Lunch*, by Lois Ehlert (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1990)
- *Flip, Flap, Fly!* by Phyllis Root (Candlewick, 2009)
- *Grumpy Bird*, by Jeremy Tankard (Scholastic, 2007) (others in series)
- *Little Owl Lost*, by Chris Haughton (Candlewick, 2010)
- *Owl Babies*, by Martin Waddell (Candlewick, 1992)
- *Owlet's First Flight*, by Mitra Modarressi (Putnam, 2012)
- *Up! Tall! And High!* by Ethan Long (Putnam, 2012)

Songs

This storytime includes four songs. The same opening 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, but keep the movements simple. If you use a song that normally has many verses, consider limiting it to two or three verses. Using recorded music during the storytime is fine, but try to sing as many songs as you can with a live voice so that young children can hear the words and the sounds making up each word. Recorded music is usually sung too fast for this purpose. 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 song list below and on the storytime program card.

Songs for This Storytime:

- Opening Song: "It's Time for Storytime" (sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell") 🎧 2.03 🎵 2.04
- "See the Pretty Little Bluebird" (sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It") 🎧 2.17
- "The Birdies in the Treetops" 🎧 1.07
- "Three Blue Pigeons" 🎧 2.24

Rhymes

This storytime includes four rhymes. The same closing rhyme should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. The rhymes used in these storytimes have motions that are appropriate for twos and threes, who still have some limited fine motor skills. Younger children may need caregivers' help with the motions in these rhymes.

Rhymes for This Storytime:

- "Five Little Robins"
- "Five Little Owls"
- "I Saw a Blue Pigeon"
- Closing Rhyme: "Wave Goodbye"

Activities

This storytime includes an optional theme-related activity, to be completed after the closing rhyme. Below are three activities 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 twos and threes in mind. Always remember and remind caregivers: **Any activity that involves materials such as paint, sand, string, or small pieces requires close adult supervision.** Although each activity has a learning aspect, the emphasis should be on having fun!

Activity Suggestions:

Fly Away. Give each child two paper plates to use as wings. Have them “fly” to classical music.

Bird Nests. Cut out bird nest shapes from brown construction paper and laminate them. Lay the bird nests in a pathway on the floor, and invite children to fly like birds from one nest to the next.

Owl Puppet. Download a copy of the owl template at www.upstartpromotions.com/upstart/pages/reproducibles, and print one for each child. Children can tear pieces of brown tissue paper for feathers. (Adults help glue on the tissue paper.) Hole reinforcement stickers can be added around the owl’s eyes. The owl can be fastened to a craft stick to make a stick puppet that families can use at home with the rhyme “Five Little Owls.”



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.