

Boats Afloat

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** Read books to your child about the ocean, rivers, and lakes, and talk about what type of boat you would use to go fishing on each.
- **SHARE WORDS** Share new words related to boats, identifying each part. Examples are the berth, boom, bow, cabin, crow's nest, deck, figurehead, galley, helm, hull, jib, masthead, porthole, promenade, deck, propeller, rudder, sail, starboard, and stern.
- **SHARE RHYMES** Share nursery rhymes about boats or water, such as "I Saw a Ship a-Sailing," "Rub-a-Dub-Dub," or "A Sailor Went to Sea": *A sailor went to sea, sea, sea / To see what he could see, see, see / But all that he could see, see, see / Was the bottom of the deep blue sea, sea, sea.*
- **SHARE SONGS** Sing songs we introduced in storytime, and add other songs related to the boating theme. Examples include "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean" and "Down by the Sea," about three little fishies and a shark. Find songs and lyrics at: <http://bus-songs.com/songs/3-little-fishies.php>.
- **SHARE STORIES** Share stories about a make-believe boat ride you take with your child. Where will you go? What will you see? What will you take with you? What will you eat on the boat?
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Engage in water play with your child. Test which objects float and which sink while your child plays in the bath. This is a wonderful way to introduce simple science experiences.
- **SHARE WRITING** Help prepare your child's hands for writing and improve his fine motor skills by making boats out of play dough.

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!

I'm a Little Tugboat

(sung to the tune of "Up on the Housetop")

I'm a little tugboat on the sea.
I pull boats much bigger than me.
When the day is through and it's time for bed,
Back to the boat yard I will head.
Chug, chug, chug,
Follow the tug (boat!),
Chug, chug, chug,
Follow the tug (boat!),
I'm a little tugboat on the sea,
I pull boats much bigger than me.
(Repeat)

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Row, row, row your boat, *(Make rowing motions with arms)*
Gently down the stream,
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Life is but a dream.

Sail, sail, sail your boat,
(Hold palms together overhead to make sail)
On the ocean blue. *(Move your hands as if sail is moving)*
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Life's a dream for you.

My Big Green Boat

(sung to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus")

I love to row in my big green boat, *(Pretend to row)*
Big green boat, big green boat.
I love to row in my big green boat
Out on the deep blue sea.

My big green boat has two white sails,
(Raise arms above head and wave gently)
Two white sails, two white sails.
My big green boat has two white sails,
Out on the deep blue sea.

So come for a row in my big green boat, *(Pretend to row)*
My big green boat, my big green boat.
So come for a row in my big green boat,
Out on the deep blue sea.

Sailboat

(sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

There's a sailboat rocking on the sea,
(Children sway from side to side)
Rocking on the sea,
Rocking on the sea,
There's a sailboat rocking on the sea,
Heigh-ho, rocking on the sea.

There's a sailboat sailing back again,
(Children sway from side to side)
Sailing back again,
Sailing back again,
There's a sailboat sailing back again,
Heigh-ho, sailing back again.

Rhymes

Sailboat

I had a little sailboat,
(Hold palms together overhead to make sail)
With sails so bright,
The wind began to blow, *(Blow hard)*
And my boat went right. *(Bend hands right)*
The wind blew again. *(Blow hard)*
I pulled with all my might, *(Make pulling motion with hands)*
And then my little sailboat
Became upright! *(Move hands back overhead for sail)*

Motorboat, Motorboat

Motorboat, motorboat, go so slow,
(Move arms in a circle slowly or lie on back and bicycle legs)
Motorboat, motorboat, go so fast,
(Move arms in a circle fast or move legs)
Motorboat, motorboat, step on the gas!
(Use foot and pretend to step on gas)
VROOOOOM! *(Repeat rhyme)*

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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