

Cats and Dogs

Sample Mixed-Ages Storytime

Opening Song (FROM THE “AGES BIRTH–24 MONTHS” MANUAL)

If You're Happy to Be Here

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

If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, (*Clap hands*)

If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, (*Clap hands*)

If you're happy to be here, then place a smile there, (*Point to mouth*)

If you're happy to be here, clap your hands. (*Clap hands*)

If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, (*Clap hands*)

If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, (*Clap hands*)

If you're ready to have some fun, then join in everyone, (*Motion hands to join in*)

If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands. (*Clap hands*)

Early Literacy Tip: Let your child see that you enjoy reading. For older children, read out loud from a magazine, newspaper, or even a recipe while you are cooking!

Opening Book

Drat that Fat Cat, by Pat Thomson

Older children can join in on the phrase “No, he was not.”

Rhyme (FROM THE “AGES 4–5” MANUAL)

Old Fat Cat

The old fat cat is sleeping, sleeping, sleeping. (*Fold hands under head as if sleeping*)

The old fat cat is sleeping in the house.

The little mice are creeping, creeping, creeping. (*Move fingers like mice creeping*)

The little mice are creeping through the house.

The old fat cat is waking, waking, waking. (*Stretch arms like when waking up*)

The old fat cat is waking through the house.

The old fat cat is chasing, chasing, chasing. (*Move fists up and down very fast*)
The old fat cat is chasing through the house.

All the mice are squealing, squealing, squealing.
(*Tap fingers against thumbs and squeal “EEK”*)
All the mice are squealing through the house.

Early Literacy Tip: Sing songs with your child daily. It does not matter if you sing in tune or not. Babies are learning the sounds of language. Sing songs a little slower for babies and toddlers so they can hear the smaller sounds in words. Have your four and five-year-old children join in!

Song (FROM THE “AGES BIRTH–24 MONTHS” MANUAL)

I’m A Little Kitty Cat

(*sung to the tune of “I’m a Little Teapot”*)

I’m a little kitty cat, soft and white. (*“Pet” one fist with other hand*)
I’ll be your friend, both day and night.
Right up on your lap I like to hop. (*Pat hands on lap*)
I’ll purr and purr, and never stop. (*“Pet” one fist with other hand*)

Book

Mama Cat Has Three Kittens, by Denise Fleming

Older children can join in with the repetitive phrase “Boris Sleeps.” The simple text with repetitive language should be appealing to babies and toddlers.

Finger/Hand Rhyme (FROM THE “AGES BIRTH–24 MONTHS” MANUAL)

Fiddle-Dee-Dee

Fiddle-dee-dee, fiddle-dee-dee, (*Clap hands in time to rhyme*)
A dog and a cat sat next to me.
Dog jumped up, on my knee, (*Jump hands up in air, then pat knees*)
Fiddle-dee, fiddle-dee, fiddle-dee-dee. (*Clap in time to rhyme*)
Arf! Arf!

Fiddle-dee-dee, fiddle-dee-dee, (*Clap hands in time to rhyme*)
A dog and a cat sat next to me.
Cat jumped up, on my knee, (*Jump hands up in air, then pat knees*)
Fiddle-dee, fiddle-dee, fiddle-dee-dee. (*Clap in time to rhyme*)
Meee-ow!

Song (FROM THE “AGES BIRTH–24 MONTHS” MANUAL)**Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes**

(Sing very slowly and touch your baby’s body, or have young toddlers touch their own body.)

Head, shoulders, knees, and toes—knees and toes. *(Touch each body part when named)*

Head, shoulders, knees, and toes—knees and toes.

And eyes, and ears, and mouth, and nose,

Head, shoulders, knees, and toes—knees and toes.

(Repeat)

Book**Dog’s Colorful Day, by Emma Dodd**

This can easily be made into a flannel or magnetic board story.

<http://www.makinglearningfun.com/themepages/DogsFeltBoard.htm>

Early Literacy Tip: Make up rhymes with your child, and have him join in on the refrain.

Rhyme (FROM THE “AGES 2–3” MANUAL)**Three Little Pets**

Three little pets jumped up on the bed, *(Child jumps up and down in place)*

One fell off and bumped his little head. *(Touch or hold head)*

Mama called the vet, and the vet said, *(Hold hand to ear like a telephone)*

“No more pets jumping up on the bed.” *(Wag finger “no”)*

Additional Verses

Two little pets jumped up on the bed ... *(Repeat motions as above)*

One little pet jumped up on the bed ... *(Repeat motions as above)*

Three little pets jumped up on the bed,

None fell off and bumped their little head,

(Spoken softly) Because they fell asleep. (Finger to mouth in “shhh” gesture)

Song (FROM THE “AGES 2–3” MANUAL)**How Much Is That Doggie in the Window?**

How much is that doggie in the window? Arf! Arf!

(Tap fingers in barking motion or clap on “Arf! Arf!”)

The one with the waggily tail? Arf! Arf!

How much is that doggie in the window? Arf! Arf!

I do hope that doggie’s for sale. Arf! Arf!

How much is that kitty in the window? Meow! Meow!
(*Tap fingers in meowing motion or clap on “Meow! Meow!”*)
The one with the long furry tail? Meow! Meow!
How much is that kitty in the window? Meow! Meow!
I do hope that kitty’s for sale. Meow! Meow!

Closer (FROM THE “AGES BIRTH–24 MONTHS” MANUAL)

The More We Get Together

The more we get together, (*Sway child from side to side in time to music*)
Together, together,
The more we get together,
The happier we’ll be.
For your friends are my friends, (*Point to child, then to self*)
And my friends are your friends, (*Point to self, then to child*)
The more we get together,
The happier we’ll be. (*Sway child from side to side in time to music*)

Additional Verse

The more we play together...

Activities

For Babies

Kitty and Puppy Toy Balls (Squeeze art) Provide a large sheet of aluminum foil, a piece of newspaper, and a piece of construction paper for each child. Children can explore the different materials and squeeze them into ball shapes. This is a great activity for small motor skills. Adults can unfold the shapes and have children do the activity several times if desired.

For Older Children

Kitty & Puppy Scribble Art Using an Ellison Die or AccuCut Die machine, cut out patterns of dogs and cats on white cardstock before the storytime. Then, for twos and threes, have the adult rubber cement or glue the animal in the center of a paper plate. (Older children can do this themselves.) Provide crayons for the children to color the animals. (Younger children will need large, chubby crayons.) The parent can add the sound the animal makes on the plate, though older preschoolers may be able to do this. Or, the child can make the first letter—“B” for “bark” or “M” for “meow.”