

Chicks and Ducks

Tips 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.

- 1. SHARE BOOKS** Many books about chicks and ducks have soft fur, feathery features, and other tactile elements. This added interest helps your baby understand that reading together is fun. These touchable elements also provide wonderful opportunities for sensory experiences.
- 2. SHARE SOUNDS** Chicks and ducks make great sounds! Get creative and silly with your voice, and share lots of cheeps, peeps, quacks, and cock-a-doodle-dos as you read books about these feathered friends.
- 3. SHARE WORDS** When reading books, there's no need to limit yourself to the words on the page. Name and describe the images in the book's illustrations, too, as you point to them. This will expose your baby to even more language.
- 4. SHARE RHYMES** Play with the sounds of chicks and ducks by naming words that rhyme. For example: "What rhymes with cheep? Beep! Let's make some beeping noises!"
- 5. SHARE SONGS** Don't worry about learning a lot of new songs to sing to your baby. It is more important to have a few in your repertoire that you repeat frequently and enjoy singing. Young children love familiarity.
- 6. SHARE STORIES** Make up stories about a duck when your child is playing with a rubber duck during bath time.
- 7. SHARE PLAYTIME** Get inexpensive plastic eggs and fill them with Cheerios, raisins, and other age-appropriate treats your child likes. Hide the eggs in an area where she can find them easily, and go on an egg hunt!

Songs and Rhymes for Chicks and Ducks

Here are the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with them every day, you will help your child make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

Songs

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)*

Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went out one day, *(Hold up five fingers)*
Over the hills and far away, *(Wiggle fingers away behind back)*
When mother duck said, "Quack, quack, quack,"
(Make quacking motion with one hand)
No little ducks came running back. *(Shake head "no")*

Sad mother duck went out one day,
Over the hills and far away,
When sad mother duck said, "QUACK, QUACK, QUACK!"
(Extra-loud voice; quacking hand motion)
All the little ducks came running back!
(Wiggle five fingers)

Old MacDonald Had a Farm

Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O! *(Bounce to the music)*
And on that farm he had a duck, E-I-E-I-O!
With a quack quack here, and a quack quack there,
("Quack" with expression!)
Here a quack, there a quack, everywhere a quack quack,
Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O!

Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O!
And on that farm he had a chicken, E-I-E-I-O!
With a peck peck here... *(Dip head in pecking motion on "peck")*

I'm a Baby Duck

(sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

I'm a baby duck,
With feathers on my back. *(Pat own "tail" or child's back)*
I paddle in the pond and I go, *(Swim with hands)*
"Quack, quack, quack." *(Hold up hands, "quack" with fingers)*
My little wings are short, *(Hold fists to chest, making wings)*
But one day I will fly.
I'll spread my wings into the air, *(Open arms)*
And fly in the sky! *(Make flying motions with arms)*

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.

Additional Verse

The more we play together...

Rhymes

One, Two, Three

One, two, three, *(Bounce on each count)*
Baby's on my knee, *(Bounce to the beat)*
Rooster crows, cock-a-doodle-doo!
And away she goes! *(Lift baby up)*

The Egg Is Quiet

The egg is so quiet, *(Whisper and make fist in front of body)*
It doesn't make a peep.
But then it cracks open, *(Louder voice and open hand)*
And CHEEP CHEEP CHEEP!
(Loud voice; fingers make beak cheep)

Five Eggs and Five Eggs

Five eggs and five eggs, that makes ten. *(Hold up both hands)*
Sitting on the top is the mother hen. *(One hand over the other)*
Crackle, crackle, crackle! What do I see? *(Clap three times)*
Ten fluffy chicks as yellow as can be!
(Hold up and wiggle ten fingers)