

Chicks and Ducks

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

Quack! Cheep! Peep! Ducks and chicks are the subjects of many favorite nursery rhymes and children's songs about life on the farm and in nature. This storytime features these feathered charmers and introduces the fact that birds hatch from eggs.

Books

For books to share in this storytime, pick three from the list below, or choose other board books or picture books in your collection that reflect the theme and are developmentally appropriate for babies and young toddlers. Always share your longest book first. For your second, choose a participatory book that engages the child or both the caregiver and child. 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. If most children are restless and you feel the program is too long for that day, skip the last story and concentrate on the rhymes and songs.

Book Suggestions:

- *Big Fat Hen*, by Keith Baker (Sandpiper, 1999)
- *Charlie Chick*, by Nick Denchfield (Campbell Books, 2003)
- *Chick*, by Ed Vere (Henry Holt, 2010)
- *Chicken, Chicken, Duck!* by Nadia Krilanovich (Tricycle Press, 2011)
- *Ducks Like to Swim*, by Agnes Verboven (Scholastic, 1997)
- *Five Little Chicks*, by Nancy Tafuri (Simon & Schuster, 2006)
- *Five Little Ducks*, by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2007)
- *Five Little Ducks*, by Jill Ackerman (Little Scholastic, 2003)
- *Good Egg*, by Barney Saltzberg (Workman, 2009)
- *Good Morning, Chick*, by Mirra Ginsburg (Greenwillow, 1989)
- *One, Two, Buckle My Shoe*, by Salina Yoon (Robin Corey Books, 2011)
- *Quack!* by Phyllis Root (Candlewick, 2005)

- *This Little Chick*, by John Lawrence (Candlewick, 2002)
- *Tickle the Duck*, by Ethan Long (Little, Brown, 2005)
- *Wee Little Chick*, by Lauren Thompson (Simon & Schuster, 2008)
- *Whose Chick Are You?* by Nancy Tafuri (Greenwillow, 2007)

Songs

This storytime includes five songs. The same opening and closing songs should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. Always provide movements or motions to accompany each song, but keep these simple, such as the caregiver rocking the baby back and forth, bouncing the baby in time to the music, or clapping the baby's hands. Using recorded music during the storytime is fine, although it's best to sing the songs with a live voice, or sing along with simple recordings, so that very young children can hear the words and the sounds making up each word. Recorded music is often sung too fast for this purpose. For your reference or to play during storytime, The Very Ready Reading Program includes a CD of songs recorded at an appropriate tempo. Track numbers for each recording are provided in the songlist below and on the storytime program card.

Songs for This Storytime:

- Opening Song: "If You're Happy to Be Here" (sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It") 🎧 22 🎵 23
- "Five Little Ducks" 🎧 13
- "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" 🎧 33
- "I'm a Baby Duck" (sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell") 🎧 24
- Closing Song: "The More We Get Together" 🎧 28 🎵 29

Rhymes

This storytime includes three rhymes, with movements to accompany them. Caregivers perform the movements with the child, depending on the child's ability. For babies, the caregiver can move the child's hands, fingers, and body, or otherwise help the baby execute the movements. Young toddlers may be able to do the movements themselves or may need a little help.

Presenter Tip Sheet for Chicks and Ducks

Keep in mind that children up to 24 months of age have not developed fine motor skills to the same degree as older toddlers and preschoolers; open and close motions are better than, say, putting one finger down at a time. The Very Ready Reading Program storytimes include different types of movement rhymes for variety, such as bounce/lift, finger/hand, and toe/foot rhymes.

Rhymes for This Storytime:

- “One, Two, Three” (bounce/lift)
- “The Egg Is Quiet” (finger)
- “Five Eggs and Five Eggs” (finger/hand)

Activities

This storytime includes an optional theme-related activity, to be completed after the closing song. Below are three to choose from, including at least one that is suitable for the youngest babies. 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 very limited attention spans of babies and young toddlers in mind. However, always keep in mind and remind caregivers: **Any time an activity involves materials such as paint, sand, string, or small pieces, close adult supervision is required.** Although each activity has a learning aspect, the emphasis should be on fun!

Activity Suggestions:

Follow the Mama Duck. In this variation of follow the leader, designate yourself as “mama duck” and invite all the “little ducklings” to walk behind you, doing what you do. Include duck moves such as wagging your tail feathers, flapping your wings, and ducking your head. Add quacks along the way. Encourage parents to carry non-walkers and join the line.

Rubber Ducky. Provide each family with a dishpan of water, or if you can go outdoors, have families gather around several child-size wading pools. Give each family several rubber ducks, and let the children place them in the water and watch them float! Young toddlers will have a fun time taking them in and out of the water.

Egg Hunt. Get some plastic hollow eggs, fill them with baby-friendly objects, and place the eggs where little ones can find them easily. Families can pretend they are ducks or chickens while searching for the eggs. When babies find an egg, caregivers will “hatch” it open and announce what’s inside. (Safety note: Objects should be too large to fit through the opening of an empty toilet paper tube.)

Early Literacy Tips

Promote the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles with parents and caregivers by emphasizing the three early literacy tips found in the yellow boxes in the storytime program.