

Colors of the Rainbow

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** When reading books to your child, ask simple questions such as “What color is the frog?” But don’t ask questions for every page of the book, so that your child can still follow the flow of the story.
- **SHARE WORDS** Open a box of crayons and talk about some of the unusual color names. Sharing new words helps a child increase her vocabulary, which will help later with reading skills. Crayons have many names children may not have heard: aquamarine, magenta, maroon, orchid, periwinkle, scarlet, wisteria, and so on.
- **SHARE RHYMES** Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they’re four years old, they’re usually among the best readers by the time they’re eight. Share nursery rhymes that contain color names such as “Little Boy Blue” and “Little Robin Redbreast.”
- **SHARE SONGS** Share nursery rhyme songs with colors in them: “Mary had a little lamb, its fleece was white as snow”; “Five green and speckled frogs”; and “Hickety, pickety, my black hen!”
- **SHARE STORIES** Make up stories about your child’s day and describe the different clothing colors he is wearing.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** When your child is playing with colored blocks, have her stack colors, or ask if she can make a stack of green blocks and a stack of red blocks.
- **SHARE WRITING** Using crayons requires fine motor skills. At age two, chubby crayons are a better choice, and children love to make scribbles. By age three, children often begin to draw circles. Provide paper and chubby crayons for your child, and praise his efforts.

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!

Color Hokey Pokey

(sung to the tune of “Hokey Pokey”)

(*Make red, yellow, green, and blue circles from construction paper. Have your child stand up and act out the song by holding the corresponding color each time.*)

You put your blue one in,
You put your blue one out,
You put your blue one in,
And you shake it all about.
You do the hokey pokey and you turn yourself around.
That’s what it’s all about.

Additional Verses

You put your red one in ...
You put your yellow one in ...
You put your green one in ...

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Color Song

(sung to the tune of "Someone's in the Kitchen with Dinah")

Red is the color of an apple to eat.
Red is the color of cherries, too.
Red is the color of strawberries.
I like red, don't you?

Blue is the color of the big blue sky.
Blue is the color of baby things, too.
Blue is the color of my sister's eyes.
I like blue, don't you?

Yellow is the color of the great big sun.
Yellow is the color of lemonade, too.
Yellow is the color of a baby chick.
I like yellow, don't you?

Green is the color of the leaves on the trees.
Green is the color of green peas, too.
Green is the color of a watermelon.
I like green, don't you?

Orange is the color of oranges.
Orange is the color of carrots, too.
Orange is the color of a jack-o'-lantern.
I like orange, don't you?

Purple is the color of a bunch of grapes.
Purple is the color of grape juice, too.
Purple is the color of a violet.
I like purple, don't you?

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Twinkle, Twinkle, Traffic Light

(sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

(Give your child three circles cut from red, green, and yellow construction paper. Ask your child to hold up the corresponding color when you sing about it.)

Twinkle, twinkle, traffic light,
All the colors shining bright.
Red means stop, green means go,
Yellow means you must go slow.
Twinkle, twinkle, traffic light,
All the colors shining bright.
(Repeat)

Rhymes

My Crayon Box

In my crayon box I see,
(Child holds up two hands with fingers extended)
Ten pretty crayons, count with me.
One, two, three, four, five,
(Parent helps by pointing to each finger while counting)

Six, seven, eight, nine, ten,
Ten pretty crayons, ten colors I see.
Can you say their names with me?
Red, pink, black, purple, and blue,
(Point to colored crayons)
White, orange, brown, gray, and yellow, too.

Wearing Colors

If you are wearing red, red, red,
(Child follows movements as given)
Touch your head.
If you are wearing brown, brown, brown,
Touch the ground.
If you are wearing green, green, green,
Wave to be seen.
If you are wearing blue, blue, blue,
Touch your shoe.
If you are wearing black, black, black,
Touch your back.
If you are wearing yellow, yellow, yellow,
Shake like JELL-O®.
If you are wearing pink, pink, pink,
Make your eyes blink.
If you are wearing white, white, white,
Then you're all right!

Color Rhyme

Blue is the sky, (Point to sky)
Yellow is the sun, (Make sun shape with two hands)
But it disappears (Slowly lower hands until they are out of sight)
When the day is done.
Green is the grass (Point to the ground)
And the leaves on the tree. (Point to imaginary tree)
And red is the ladybug
(Have fingers on one hand crawl on the arm of other hand)
That's crawling on me!

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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