

Dinosaur Dig

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** Sharing books on topics that cannot be seen in real life helps a child's growing imagination. Dinosaur books are the perfect example—talk about the pictures if the text is too advanced.
- **SHARE WORDS** Surprisingly, children often have less difficulty pronouncing dinosaur names than some adults. Investigate different dinosaur names and say them slowly, so your child can hear the various syllables that make up the individual names.
- **SHARE RHYMES** Act out “Five Enormous Dinosaurs” from this storytime using toy dinosaurs or objects to represent the dinosaurs. The repetition will help your child learn numbers.
- **SHARE SONGS** The songs “It’s Great to Be a Dinosaur!” and “Dino Ditty” are fun to act out in a large space. See if your child can add some other verses. Also, ask your child what types of sounds dinosaurs make. Both activities increase your child’s narrative skills, an important pre-reading skill.
- **SHARE STORIES** Because dinosaurs are extinct, their imaginary status allows for many fantastic stories! Allowing your child to contribute freely to these stories fosters creativity and increases narrative skills. Toy dinosaurs can add to the fun.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Make play dough dinosaurs with your child. Press plastic dinosaurs into play dough to make fossils. Hide dinosaurs in a sandbox, and have children shovel to find them.
- **SHARE WRITING** Trace around your child’s hand (fingers tight together) to make a dinosaur head. Challenge your child to draw the body of the dinosaur. Grasping a crayon and holding the paper so it does not move involves small motor skills that will be useful later when your child learns to write.

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

Do You Know the Dinosaurs?

(sung to the tune of “Do You Know the Muffin Man?”)

Do you know the dinosaurs,
The dinosaurs, the dinosaurs?
Do you know the dinosaurs
Who lived so long ago?

The stegosaurus has a row
Of plates that stand up on his spine. (*Point to back*)
The big T. rex is oh so fierce! (*Hands like claws, fierce face*)
He’d be no pet of mine. (*Shake head “no”*)

Triceratops has three big horns,
(*Hold up fingers to make horns on top of head*)
Three big horns on his head.
Apatosaurus has a neck
(*Stretch arms up, holding hands together*)
That’s long and tall instead.

Do you know the dinosaurs,
The dinosaurs, the dinosaurs?
Do you know the dinosaurs
Who lived so long ago?

It’s Great to Be a Dinosaur!

(sung to the tune of “Glory, Glory, Hallelujah”)

I love to stomp and chomp and romp and
clomp throughout the land,
I love to stomp and chomp and romp and
clomp throughout the land,
I love to stomp and chomp and romp
and clomp throughout the land,
I love to be a dinosaur!

Oh, it’s great to be a dinosaur,
Oh, it’s great to be a dinosaur,
Oh, it’s great to be a dinosaur,
And stomp throughout the land!

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Dino Ditty

(sung to the tune of "Do Wah Diddy Diddy")

Here he comes just a stomping with his feet, (*Child stomps*)

Singing "dino ditty, ditty-dum, ditty-do," (*Clap to beat of rhyme*)

Searching all around for something good to eat,

(*Hands over eyes searching*)

Singing "dino ditty, ditty-dum, ditty-do," (*Clap to beat of rhyme*)

He's huge! (He's huge!) (*Hold hand high to show huge*)

He's strong! (He's strong!) (*Hold arms up to show strong*)

He's huge, he's strong,

Won't be hungry very long!

Dino ditty, ditty-dum, ditty-do, (*Clap to beat of rhyme*)

Dino ditty, ditty-dum, ditty-do, (*Clap to beat of rhyme*)

Yeah, dino ditty, ditty-dum, ditty-do, (*Clap to beat of rhyme*)

Oh, dino ditty, ditty-dum, ditty-do! (*Clap to beat of rhyme*)

Rhymes

I Wish I Had a Dinosaur

I wish I had a dinosaur (*Hold hands up to show how big*)

That I could call my own. (*Point to self*)

I'd take him with me everywhere, (*Cross arms over chest*)

He'd never be alone. (*Shake finger "no"*)

A football field would be his bed, (*Open arms wide*)

A swimming pool his tub. (*Make swimming motions*)

I'd need a ladder to reach his head, (*Pretend to climb*)

A blanket for a rub. (*Open arms wide*)

I'd need bushels of leafy food, (*Circle arms in front*)

A tree for playing fetch, (*Pretend to throw*)

Bundles of cloth to make his clothes

(*Make a circle with arms overhead*)

And a basketball for catch. (*Pretend to dribble ball*)

I'd call him Dino De Dandee,

He'd be my bestest friend. (*Hands hug chest*)

When you saw him—you'd see me,

That's how close we would be.

I wish I had a dinosaur (*Hold hands up to show how big*)

That I could call my own. (*Point to self*)

I'd take him with me everywhere, (*Cross arms over chest*)

He'd never be alone. (*Shake finger*)

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Dinosaur Dance

If you like to boogie, if you like to prance, (*Prance around*)

Let's all do the dinosaur dance! (*Clap hands*)

Stomp your feet from side to side, (*Stomp feet*)

Swing your neck out big and wide!

(*Swing head from side to side*)

Flap your wings like you're going to soar, (*Flap arms*)

Swish that tail and dance some more!

(*Move bottom from side to side*)

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Five Enormous Dinosaurs

Five enormous dinosaurs, letting out a roar,

(*Help children hold fingers down*)

One went away, and then there were four.

Four enormous dinosaurs, munching on a tree,

One went away, and then there were three.

Three enormous dinosaurs, didn't know what to do,

One went away, and then there were two.

Two enormous dinosaurs, having lots of fun,

One went away, and then there was one.

One enormous dinosaur, afraid to be a hero,

He went away, and then there was zero.

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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