

# Down by the Ocean

## 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** Read other books with your child about the ocean or going to the beach. Again, this is a great way to introduce a new experience in the real world to your child.
- 2. SHARE SOUNDS** Talk about the sounds you might hear at the ocean. Have your child imitate them if possible. Compare them to sounds you would hear at the farm, the zoo, and so forth.
- 3. SHARE WORDS** If your child has never been to the ocean, build her ocean vocabulary by talking about all the different kinds of sea life and creatures that live there. If your child has been to the ocean, reminiscing about the experience is a good way to review what you saw, and at the same time it reinforces words that you don't often use.
- 4. SHARE RHYMES** Recite the rhymes presented during storytime today, and try doing them in a different way. For the rhyme "Here Is a Beach Ball," just say "balls" and use real balls instead of beach balls. "Motorboat, Motorboat" is fun for your baby in the tub.
- 5. SHARE SONGS** Sing songs we introduced in storytime, and add other songs about the sea that you might know. For example: "A sailor went to sea, sea, sea / To see what he could see, see, see / But all that he could see, see, see / Was the bottom of the deep blue sea, sea, sea." Or sing "Mister Sun" or "Rain, Rain, Go Away" and talk about why you like to have sun when you are at the beach, and not rain.
- 6. SHARE STORIES** Share stories about times when you were at the beach and what happened. Did you jump the waves? Did you build a sandcastle? Do you have any seashells you can share? Did you ride on a boat?
- 7. SHARE PLAYTIME** Engage in sand or water play with your young toddler. This helps develop his sensory awareness and helps him get to know sand and water, and it enriches his vocabulary. It can also be fun for you!

# Songs and Rhymes for Down by the Ocean

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

### Walking on the Beach

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

We're walking on the beach, *(Walk in place)*  
We're walking on the beach,  
We wave at everyone we meet, *(Wave, or wave baby's hand)*  
We're walking on the beach.

We're swimming at the beach, *(Swimming motions with hands)*  
We're swimming at the beach,  
We're splashing everyone we meet, *(Splash motions with hands)*  
We're swimming at the beach.

### The Waves at the Beach

(sung to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus")

The waves at the beach go up and down, *(Bounce gently)*  
Up and down, up and down,  
The waves at the beach go up and down,  
All day long.

#### Additional Verses

The lobsters at the beach go snap, snap, snap ...  
The clams at the beach go open and shut ...

### Three Little Fishies

Down in the meadow in a little bitty pool,  
Swam three little fishies and a mama fishie too. *(Swim arms)*  
"Swim," said the mama fishie, "swim if you can."  
And they swam and they swam all over the dam.  
Boop boop dittum dattum wattum choo, *(Clap hands)*  
Boop boop dittum dattum wattum choo, *(Slap thighs)*  
Boop boop dittum dattum wattum choo, *(Clap hands)*  
And they swam and they swam right over the dam. *(Swim arms)*

"Stop!" cried the mama fish, "or you'll get lost!" *(Make "stop" motion)*  
But the three little fishies didn't want to be bossed. *(Shake head "no")*  
So they swam and they swam, it was all a lark, *(Swim arms)*  
Till all of a sudden they saw a shark! *(Be very still)*

"Whoa!" cried the fishies. "Let's go with the whales."

Quick as they could, they turned on their tails, *(Turn half circle)*  
Back to the pool in the meadow they swam, *(Swim arms)*  
And they swam and they swam back over the dam.  
Boop boop dittum dattum wattum choo, *(Clap hands)*  
Boop boop dittum dattum wattum choo, *(Slap thighs)*  
Boop boop dittum dattum wattum choo, *(Clap hands)*  
And they swam and they swam back over the dam. *(Swim arms)*

### The More We Get Together

The more we get together, *(Sway from side to side)*  
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

### Here Is a Beach Ball

A little beach ball, *(Help child form small ball with both hands)*  
A bigger beach ball, *(Pull out hands to show bigger ball)*  
A great big beach ball I see. *(Pull out hands in largest ball)*  
Now let us count the beach balls we've made,  
One, two, three! *(Repeat all three motions above)*

### Motorboat, Motorboat

Cycle babies' feet slow, then fast; toddlers can stand in place and move legs slow, then fast.

Motorboat, motorboat, go so slow,  
Motorboat, motorboat, go so fast,  
Motorboat, motorboat, step on the gas!  
VROOOOOM!

### Little Blue Whale

Little blue whale in the big blue sea, *(Bounce child on lap or knees)*  
Splish, splash, splish, splash, swim with me.  
Dip a little, *(Dip child down)*  
Dive a little, *(Lift child up)*  
Dunk a little, whale, *(Dip child down)*  
Come back up, and flip your tail! *(Lift child up)*