

Down by the Ocean

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

Babies love water play! Whether bathtub, baby pool, or seashore, splashing in water is a joyful sensory experience. And whether or not the children at this storytime have ever been to the ocean, they will enjoy exploring water and sand. This storytime also introduces babies to some common sea creatures.

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:

- *1 2 3 Beach: A Cool Counting Book*, by Puck (Duo Press, 2012)
- *At the Beach*, by Mandy Stanley (Kingfisher, 2002)
- *At the Beach*, by Salina Yoon (Feiwel and Friends, 2011)
- *Beach Day!* by Anahid Hamparian (Marshall Cavendish, 2009)
- *Beach Party!* by Harriet Ziefert (Blue Apple, 2011)
- *Fish, Swish! Splash, Dash! Counting Round and Round*, by Suse MacDonald (Little Simon, 2007)
- *Giant Pop-Out Ocean*, by Chronicle Books (Chronicle Books, 2010)
- *Good Night Beach*, by Adam Gamble (Our World of Books, 2007)
- *Harry Bear and Friends Count Fish*, by Elliot Krelloff (Blue Apple, 2011)
- *Hooray for Fish!* by Lucy Cousins (Candlewick, 2005)
- *In My Ocean*, by Sara Gillingham (Chronicle Books, 2011)

- *Little Ocean Explorers*, by Anthony Lewis (Child's Play International, 2007)
- *Noodle Loves the Beach*, by Marion Billet (Nosy Crow, 2011)
- *Ocean! A Big Fold-out Concept Book*, by Joanne Barkan (Reader's Digest, 2009)
- *Ocean Friends*, by Jodie Shepherd (Reader's Digest, 2007)
- *Seashore Baby*, by Elise Broach (Little, Brown Kids, 2010)
- *Spot Goes to the Beach*, by Eric Hill (Putnam Juvenile, 2005)
- *Where Is Baby's Beach Ball?* by Karen Katz (Little Simon, 2009)
- *Who's Hiding at the Beach?* by Christiane Gunzi (Barron's Educational, 2010)

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
- "Walking on the Beach" (sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell") 🎧 52
- "The Waves at the Beach" (sung to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus") 🎧 53
- "Three Little Fishies" 🎧 48
(To hear a fuller version of this song, listen to it on *Bathtime Magic*, by Joanie Bartels, BMG, 2003.)
- Closing Song: "The More We Get Together" 🎧 28 🎵 29

Presenter Tip Sheet for Down by the Ocean

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. 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:

- "Here Is a Beach Ball" (finger/hand)
- "Motorboat, Motorboat" (movement)
- "Little Blue Whale" (bounce/lift)

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:

Beach Play. Fill a baby pool (or pools) or dishpans with play sand, and provide buckets and shovels or any type of containers (e.g., measuring cups, plastic containers) so that children can play in the sand. If used as an indoor activity, place pools or dishpans on top of a shower curtain liner or plastic tablecloth for easier cleanup.

Beach Ball. There are several fun beach ball games to play with babies and young toddlers. *Ball Roll:* Lay the baby on top of the ball on her stomach, and gently roll her back and forth, holding her in place. Have the young toddler sit a short distance opposite the adult and roll the ball back and forth. *Ball Bounce:* Have adults hold the ball between their feet and knees and bounce baby gently on top of ball. Roll the ball a short distance, and let a baby crawl after it or a young toddler chase it.

Ocean Explorers. In advance, fill clear plastic bottles three-fourths full with water and a small amount of detergent or liquid soap (optional: add a drop of blue and a drop of green food coloring); glue lids on securely. Encourage little ones to shake the bottles to make ocean foam and roll the bottles on the floor. As an optional addition for young toddlers, give families a bag of seashells to explore, and provide a magnifying glass for an up-close look.

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.