

Down on the Farm

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

Some of the first sounds young toddlers identify and mimic are those made by cows, chickens, pigs, sheep, and other farm animals. It's no wonder that so many nursery rhymes feature these barnyard friends. Today's storytime introduces songs, rhymes, and stories about farm animals and invites children to play with the many wonderful sounds they make.

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:

- *Baby Animals on the Farm*, by Kingfisher Books (Kingfisher, 2010)
- *Baby at the Farm*, by Karen Katz (Little Simon, 2009)
- *Clip-Clop*, by Nicola Smee (Frances Lincoln, 2006)
- *Down on the Farm*, by Merrily Kutner (Holiday House, 2009)
- *F Is for Farm*, by Roger Priddy (Priddy Books, 2008)
- *Farm Animals*, by Lucy Cousins (Candlewick, 2004)
- *Hello, Day!* by Anita Lobel (Greenwillow, 2008)
- *In My Barn*, by Sara Gillingham (Chronicle Books, 2012)
- *Moo Moo, Brown Cow*, by Jakki Wood (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1996)
- *My Fuzzy Farm Babies: A Book to Touch and Feel*, by Tad Hills (Little Simon, 2001)
- *Noisy Farm (Baby Fun)*, by Jane Burton (DK Preschool, 2005)

- *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*, by David Ellwand (Silver Dolphin Books, 2010)
- *On the Farm (Bright Baby Touch & Feel)*, by Roger Priddy (Priddy Books, 2006)
- *Open the Barn Door*, by Christopher Santoro (Random House, 1993)
- *Peek-a-Moo*, by Marie Torres Cimarusti (Dutton Juvenile, 1998)
- *Simms Taback's Farm Animals*, by Simms Taback (Blue Apple, 2011)
- *This Little Piggy*, by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2008)
- *Touch and Feel Farm*, by Dwell Studio (Blue Apple, 2009)
- *Who Am I? Farm Animals*, by DK Publishing (DK Preschool, 2012)
- *Who's Hiding? On the Farm*, by Christiane Gunzi (Barron's Educational, 2010)
- *The World of Eric Carle: Around the Farm Sound Book*, by Eric Carle (Publications International, 2011)

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
- "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep" 🎧 3

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- “Bingo”  7
- “Old MacDonald Had a Farm”  34
- 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. 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:

- “Shoe the Old Horse” (bounce/lift)
- “This Little Piggy” (toe/foot)
- “To Market, to Market” (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:

Barn Play. Fill a baby pool or pools with shredded paper “hay” and farm animal puppets or props, and let the babies join them in the “barn” (pool). The texture is stimulating, and the experience invites positive interaction and opportunities for socializing.

Water Fun. Fill a baby pool or pools with water, or use dish pans. If an indoor activity, use a large plastic sheet or shower curtain liner for easier cleanup. Float rubber duckies in the pools. Babies and young toddlers will love to splash and play with the ducks in the water.

Hatching Eggs. Print pictures of ducklings and chicks, and hide them in plastic eggs. Put the eggs in a basket and ask, “What kind of egg do you think this is? Let’s find out!” Open to reveal the picture. Ask children to imitate the sound this animal makes, and help with “cheep” and “quack” as needed. You may also hide the eggs and let the children find them.

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.