

Feathered Friends

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** Introduce a book you are reading to your child by discussing the cover. Focus your child on the illustrations and ask: “What do you think this story might be about?” Also, have your child help turn the pages of the book. All of these are important steps toward learning to read.
- **SHARE WORDS** Talk about the differences between chickens, ducks, geese, and swans. This not only teaches simple science concepts but may introduce some new words. For example, ducks live in the wild, and chickens live on farms. Swans are larger and have long necks, while geese are smaller and have shorter necks.
- **SHARE RHYMES** While doing some of the fingerplays from storytime during the week, pause occasionally to see if your child can supply the rhyming word; for example, in the lines “Five eggs and five eggs, that makes ten./Sitting on top is the mother _____.”
- **SHARE SONGS** Sing classic nursery songs with your child. By singing nursery songs, your child is learning pitch, volume, and voice inflection as well as the rhythm of language—all important for language development.
- **SHARE STORIES** Many songs tell a story. Have your child help retell the story in a song. For instance, help your child retell or add to the story in the song “Five Little Ducks.” Ask: “Where did the ducks go? Why did they come back?”
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Play lively music and provide props (scarves, streamers, ribbon wands, feathers). This supports the development of literacy skills by stimulating brain connections and imagination as well as creative expression.

- **SHARE WRITING** While dancing with props, suggest that your child make circles and move her prop diagonally through the air. These moves strengthen the small muscles in the wrist and hands that she will use for writing.

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!

Over in the Barnyard

(sung to the tune of “Down by the Station”)

Over in the barnyard (*Hold up both hands and wiggle fingers*)
Early in the morning,
See the baby chickens
Standing in a row.
See the busy farmer
Feeding them their breakfast,
Cheep, cheep, cheep, cheep,
(*Make cheeping motions with four fingers tapping thumbs*)
Off they go! (*Wiggle both hands again*)

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Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went out one day, *(Hold up five fingers)*
Over the hills and far away, *(Wiggle fingers behind back)*
When mother duck said, “Quack, quack, quack,”
(Make quacking motion with one hand)
No little ducks came running back. *(Shake head “no”)*

Sad mother duck went out one day,
Over the hills and far away,
When sad mother duck said, “QUACK, QUACK, QUACK!”
(Use extra-loud voice, and make quacking motion with hand)
All the little ducks came running back! *(Wiggle five fingers)*

If You’re Ducky and You Know It

(sung to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”)

If you’re ducky and you know it, say “quack.”
If you’re ducky and you know it, say “quack.”
If you’re ducky and you know it, then you really
ought to show it,
If you’re ducky and you know it, say “quack.”

If you’re chicky and you know it, say “cheep.”
If you’re chicky and you know it, say “cheep.”
If you’re chicky and you know it, then you really
ought to show it,
If you’re chicky and you know it, say “cheep.”

Rhymes

Five Eggs and Five Eggs

Five eggs and five eggs, that makes ten. *(Hold up both hands)*
Sitting on the top is the mother hen. *(One hand over the other)*
Crackle, crackle, crackle! What do I see? *(Clap three times)*
Ten fluffy chicks as yellow as can be!
(Hold up and wiggle ten fingers)

Little Chicks

The little chicks say “peep, peep, peep,”
(Make peeping motion with one hand)
They’re cold and hungry—they can’t sleep. *(Rub tummy)*
Mother hen finds corn and wheat,
(Peck left hand with right fingers)
And baby chicks happily eat. *(Touch mouth)*
Mother hen opens her arms, *(Open arms)*
And babies sleep full and warm. *(Lay head on hands)*

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Five Little Ducks That I Once Knew

Five little ducks that I once knew
(Hold up one hand showing five fingers)
Big ones, little ones, and skinny ones, too,
(Show sizes with hands)
But one little duck, with a feather on his back,
(Hold up one thumb)
He led the others with a quack, quack, quack.
(Make quacking motions with four fingers tapping on thumbs of both hands)
All he could do was “quack, quack, quack.”

Down to the river they would go,
Waddling, waddling, to and fro, *(Waddle like a duck)*
But the one little duck with a feather on his back,
(Hold up one thumb)
He led the others with a quack, quack, quack.
(Make quacking motions with four fingers tapping thumbs of both hands)
All he could do was quack, quack, quack.

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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