

Gone Fishin’

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** Share books that discuss new experiences for your child, and then share what you know about these topics.
- **SHARE WORDS** Talk about some of the different kinds of fish that you know. Share pictures (from books or the Internet). Interesting examples include clown fish, flounder, sea horses, catfish, flying fish, swordfish, and sardines.
- **SHARE RHYMES** When sharing some of the rhymes that were used in storytime, clap out the syllables of the words so your child can hear the smaller sounds in the words.
- **SHARE SONGS** Change the words of a familiar song by having the words start with a different sound. For example, change “Row, row, row your boat,” to “Bow, bow, bow your boat.” This helps your child learn beginning sounds in words, an important skill when he is learning to read.
- **SHARE STORIES** Create some “fish stories” with your child! A fish story is an exaggerated story that would never happen in real life.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Make-believe fishing is fun for children! Attach a string to a dowel rod or ruler, and add a magnet on the bottom of the string. Cut fish out of bright-colored construction paper, or have your child color fish on white paper. Then attach a couple of large paper clips to the fish, and your child can experience fishing (when the magnet “catches” the paper clips on the fish).
- **SHARE WRITING** Cut fish shapes from poster board or cardboard. Have your child hold the fish waist high and drop them into a bucket. This activity develops hand-eye coordination, which is crucial for handwriting.

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!

Three Little Fish

(sung to the tune of “Three Blind Mice”)

Three little fish,
Wiggle, wiggle, swish! (*Wiggle and swish hands*)
See how they swim, (*Make swimming motions*)
See how they swim.
They wiggle their fins and they swish their tails.
(*Wiggle and swish hands*)
Along the ocean currents they sail.
Did you ever wish to swim with a fish?
(*Make swimming motions*)
Wiggle, wiggle, swish! (*Wiggle and swish hands*)
Wiggle, wiggle, swish!

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Counting Fishes

(sung to the tune of “Bumping Up and Down in My Little Red Wagon”)

(Have child hold up two hands, and point to each finger while singing.)

One little, two little, three little fishes,
Four little, five little, six little fishes,
Seven little, eight little, nine little fishes,
Ten little fishes in the pond.

Ten little, nine little, eight little fishes,
Seven little, six little, five little fishes,
Four little, three little, two little fishes,
One little fish in the pond.

Have You Ever Been a-Fishin’?

(sung to the tune of “The More We Get Together”)

Have you ever been a-fishin’,
(Sway from side to side to music)
A-fishin’, a-fishin’?

Have you ever been a-fishin’,
On a bright, sunny day?
With your rod, hook, and fish bait,
(Pretend to hold a fishing rod)

Rod, hook, and fish bait,
Have you ever been a-fishin’,
On a bright, sunny day?

Have you ever been a-fishin’,
(Sway from side to side to music)
A-fishin’, a-fishin’?

Have you ever been a-fishin’,
On a bright, sunny day?
And you catch no fish—no fish!
(Hold hands out, palms up, and shake head “no”)

You catch no fish—no fish!
Have you ever been a-fishin’
When they all swam away?

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Row, row, row your boat, (Make rowing motions slowly)

Gently down the stream,
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Life is but a dream.

Rock, rock, rock your boat, (Adult rocks child)

Gently to and fro,
Watch out! Oh, no!
In the water you go!
(Adult tips child to the side)

Rhymes

Five Little Fishes

Five little fishes swimming in a pool,
(Child holds up one hand and adult points to each finger)
The first one said, “The pool is cool.”
The second one said, “The pool is deep.”
The third one said, “I’d like to sleep.”
The fourth one said, “I’ll float and dip.”
The fifth one said, “I see a ship.”
The fishing boat comes.

The line goes splash.

(Pretend to hold a fishing rod and throw in line)

All the little fishes

Swim away in a flash! (Move one hand to swim like a fish)

Fish Rhyme

One, two, three, four, five,

(Child holds up one hand, and adult points to each finger)

I caught a little fish alive. (Make catching motion)

Six, seven, eight, nine, ten,

(Child holds up other hand, and adult points to each finger)

Then I let him go again!

Why did you let him go?

Because he bit my finger so.

(Make biting motion with one hand biting the other)

Which finger did he bite?

The little one on the right. (Point to little finger on one hand)

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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