

Good 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** Read picture books about famous friends such as: Frog and Toad, Dog and Bear, Elephant and Piggie, Toot and Puddle, and Clifford and Emily. A librarian can help you find more picture book friends!
- **SHARE WORDS** Make a list of all the words we use for friends (buddy, classmate, playmate, amigo, pal, partner, mate, sidekick). Point out that many things have more than one word to describe them.
- **SHARE RHYMES** Share nursery rhymes about friends, such as “Jack and Jill,” “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” and “Little Bo Peep.” Researchers have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by the time they’re four years old, they will probably be among the best readers by the time they’re eight years old.
- **SHARE SONGS** Sing songs about friendship. In addition to those shared in storytime, try “She’ll Be Coming ’Round the Mountain” and “Bill Grogan’s Goat.”
- **SHARE STORIES** Have your child dictate a story about one of his friends. Transcribe his words onto paper, and let him illustrate his story. Take turns reading the story to each other.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Take your child on a real or imaginary picnic and allow him to invite a friend to come along.
- **SHARE WRITING** Help your child write a letter to a friend. She can dictate, and you can write the words. Suggest including a drawing. Address and mail the letter with your child.

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

Moving Hands

(sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”)

Put your hands on your head, *(Suit actions to words)*

Put your hands on your knees,

Put your hands behind you now,

If you please.

Put your hands on your tummy,

Put your hands on your toes,

Put your hands upon your cheeks,

Put them on your nose.

Put your hands in the air,

Put your hands on your hair,

Clap your hands, one, two, three,

Then fold them on your knees.

The More We Get Together

The more we get together, *(Cross arms and 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 someone else and then to yourself)

And my friends are your friends.

(Point to yourself and then to someone else)

The more we get together, *(Cross arms and sway from side to side)*

The happier we’ll be.

(Repeat)

For Pig’s a Jolly Good Fellow

(sung to the tune of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”)

For Pig’s a jolly good fellow,

(Put finger on nose to flatten it like a snout and swing head from side to side)

For Pig’s a jolly good fellow,

For Pig’s a jolly good fellow,

Which nobody can deny,

(Remove finger and just sway from side to side)

Which nobody can deny,

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Which nobody can deny,
For Elephant's a jolly good fellow,
(Make elephant trunk with arm and swing from side to side)
For Elephant's a jolly good fellow,
For Elephant's a jolly good fellow,
Which nobody can deny.

Rig-a-Jig-Jig

As I was walking down the street, *(Children walk in place)*
Down the street, down the street,
A very good friend I happened to meet,
Heigh-ho, heigh-ho, heigh-ho! *(Clap hands to beat)*

Rig-a-jig-jig and away we go,
(Sway hands back and forth from side to side)
Away we go, away we go!
Rig-a-jig-jig and away we go,
Heigh-ho, heigh-ho, heigh-ho! *(Clap hands to beat)*

Library Storytime Song

(sung to the tune of "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad")

I came to my storytime
(Sway side to side throughout and point to self)
At the library today,
I came to my storytime *(Point to self)*
To sing, and laugh, and play.
I listened to some picture books,
Sang songs, said some rhymes,
I hope I can come back again,
Because I had a very good time!
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
I want to come back to storytime!
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
To my storytime!
(Spoken) See you soon! *(Wave goodbye)*

Rhymes

I Can, You Can!

I can put my hands up high. Can you? *(Suit actions to words)*
I can wink my eye. Can you?
I can stick out my tongue. Can you?
I can nod my head. Can you?
I can kiss my toe. Can you?
I can pull on my ear. Can you?
I can wrinkle my nose. Can you?
I can give myself a great big hug. Can you?
And if I give my hug to you, will you give yours to me?

Jack and Jill

Jack and Jill went up the hill *(Swing arms as if climbing up a hill)*
To fetch a pail of water, *(Pretend to hold pail of water)*
Jack fell down and broke his crown, *(Point to head)*
And Jill came tumbling after. *(Roll hands over each other)*

Then up got Jack and said to Jill,
As in his arms he took her, *(Cross arms as if hugging yourself)*
"Brush off that dirt, for you're not hurt, *(Brush dirt off body)*
Let's fetch that pail of water."

So Jack and Jill went up the hill *(Swing arms as if climbing up a hill)*
To fetch the pail of water, *(Hold pail of water)*
And took it home to Mother,
Who thanked her son and daughter.
(Cross arms as if hugging yourself)

Five Happy Friends

Five happy friends playing on the shore,
(Hold up five fingers and count down to one)
One chased a gull, leaving only four.
Four happy friends swimming in the sea,
One jumped out, leaving only three.
Three happy friends under skies of blue,
One went home, leaving only two.
Two happy friends bathing in the sun,
One swam away, leaving only one.
One sad friend missing the others,
Went to search for his sisters and brothers.