

Imaginary Creatures

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 traditional folktales with your child, such as Little Red Riding Hood, The Three Little Pigs, and Goldilocks. Not only are they imaginative, but they are also an important foundation of literature and often teach lessons or values.
- **SHARE WORDS** Repeat new words often so your child learns how to pronounce them and will repeat them. This is why the repetition of rhymes and songs is so important. Big words are even more appealing to young children. For example, in one rhyme in our storytime, we introduced the word “ferociously.”
- **SHARE RHYMES** Make up silly rhymes, and act them out or dance with your child while reciting them.
- **SHARE SONGS** Adapt songs by creating new verses for traditional tunes. See if your child can help. This is a great exercise for her imagination!
- **SHARE STORIES** Make up stories about imaginary creatures, and have your child describe the creatures.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Act out The Three Billy Goats Gruff with your child, adding some simple props and creating a “troll” out of fun household objects.
- **SHARE WRITING** Challenge your child to create a monster and bring it to life through a drawing or with play dough.

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.

Great Green Scary Things

(sung to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”)

Great green giant hair, *(Point to hair)*

Yellow giant eyes, *(Point to eyes)*

Hair and eyes, eyes and hair,

Eek! What a surprise! *(Raise hands in “eek!” gesture)*

Great green monster teeth, *(Point to teeth)*

Orange monster ears, *(Point to ears)*

Teeth and ears, ears and teeth,

All my scary fears! *(Raise hands in “eek!” gesture)*

Great green scary things,

All so big and tall! *(Hold arms and hands up to show “tall”)*

Watch me bop them on the heads, *(Make bopping motion with fist)*

Now they’re really small!

Horns, Snouts, Claws, and Paws

(sung to the tune of “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes”)

(Point to or move imaginary body parts; wiggle “claws,” stamp “paws,” etc.)

Horns, snouts, claws, and paws—claws and paws.

Horns, snouts, claws, and paws—claws and paws.

And eyes and ears and mouth and tail,

Horns, snouts, claws, and paws!

(Repeat)

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

The Billy Goats Gruff

(sung to the tune of "Five Little Ducks")

The Billy Goats Gruff went out to eat, *(Hold up three fingers)*
Over the bridge for a green grass treat,
They trip-trap, trip-trapped on their way, *(Stamp feet)*
And out jumped a troll without delay. *(Jump)*
The mean troll said, "What do I hear? *(Cup hand around ear)*
I'm hungry and my meal is near!"
The big billy goat said, "You can't eat me,"
(Hold two fingers on top of head like horns)
And he butted the troll ferociously! *(Make butting motion)*

Library Storytime Song

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

I came to my storytime
(Sway from 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

The Gruffalo (or Wild Thing) Stomp

"Hee, hee, ho, hum," said the gruffalo. *(Stomp, stomp)*
"Hee, hee, ho, hum," said the gruffalo. *(Stomp, stomp)*
"Hee, hee, ho, hum, *(Stomp, stomp)*
I smell a snake, an owl, and a fox, ho-ho." *(Sniff, sniff)*
Said the knobby-kneed, turned-out-toed, horned gruffalo.
(Pat knees and toes, and make horns on top of head with hands)
"Be they here or be they there, *(Shrug shoulders)*
"Be they haired, feathered, or bare, *(Shrug shoulders)*
I will find them anywhere!" *(Stomp, stomp)*

Goats on a Stroll

(Your child can use real drums or hold up one hand with palm up as the drum. Hold two fingers on the other hand as drum sticks, and use "sticks" to beat on the "drum")
Trip, trap, trip, trap on my drum.
(Beat drum with a slow, rhythmic beat)
Trip, trap, trip, trap, rum, tum, tum.
Trip, trap, trip, trap on my drum.
Trip, trap, trip, trap, rum, tum, tum.
This is the sound of a goat on a stroll.
Here is the sound of an angry troll.
(Beat drum with a fast, heavy beat)

(Use angry troll voice)
Who is walking on my bridge?
Trip, trap, trip, trap! Off my bridge!
No one should be walking there,
Get off! Get off! Don't you dare!