

Kitty Cat and Puppy Dog Tales

Tips 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.

- 1. SHARE BOOKS** Read additional books about cats and dogs. Share more books about Spot the dog, by Eric Hill. Young toddlers love flap books because they're beginning to understand "object permanence"—that things still exist even though they can't be seen (in flap books, the object is hidden under a flap). Hint: If you own flap books at home, cover the hinge of the flap with tape before your child handles it, and the flaps will last much longer.
- 2. SHARE SOUNDS** Share not only the sounds that dogs and cats make but also the sounds that other animals make. Have your child imitate these sounds. Imitating sounds eventually leads to saying words.
- 3. SHARE WORDS** Introduce your child to new dog- or cat-related words (for example, fetch, growl, howl, whimper, whine, whiskers, twitching), and explain them or act them out. Find a book on different dog or cat breeds and share the names of the different breeds.
- 4. SHARE RHYMES** Continue to recite the rhymes that we introduced in today's storytime (see other side of sheet). Other rhymes to try include "Three Little Kittens" and "Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat."
- 5. SHARE SONGS** The lyrics to songs we sang today are on the other side of this sheet. Continue singing these songs with your child. Add other dog and cat songs, such as "Do Your Ears Hang Low?"
- 6. SHARE STORIES** Tell your child a story about a pet you remember from childhood. Or make up stories about pets you presently own.
- 7. SHARE PLAYTIME** Act out the movements and behaviors of cats and dogs. Can your child stretch like a dog, or stretch like a cat when it awakens from a long nap? How does a dog jump? How does a dog dig a hole? How does a cat chase a ball? How does a cat clean itself?

Songs and Rhymes for Kitty Cat and Puppy Dog Tales

Here are the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with them every day, you will help your child make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

Songs

If You're Happy to Be Here

(sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*
If you're happy to be here, then place a smile there, *(Point to mouth)*
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands. *(Clap hands)*

If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*
If you're ready to have some fun, then join in everyone,
(Motion hands to join in)
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands. *(Clap hands)*

How Much Is That Doggie in the Window?

How much is that doggie in the window? Arf! Arf!
(Tap fingers in barking motion or clap on "Arf! Arf!")
The one with the waggily tail? Arf! Arf!
How much is that doggie in the window? Arf! Arf!
I do hope that doggie's for sale. Arf! Arf!

How much is that kitty in the window? Meow! Meow!
(Tap fingers or clap on "Meow! Meow!")
The one with the long furry tail? Meow! Meow!
How much is that kitty in the window? Meow! Meow!
I do hope that kitty's for sale. Meow! Meow!

I'm a Little Kitty Cat

(sung to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot")

I'm a little kitty cat, soft and white. *("Pet" one fist with other hand)*
I'll be your friend, both day and night.
Right up on your lap I like to hop. *(Pat hands on lap)*
I'll purr and purr, and never stop. *("Pet" one fist with other hand)*

Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone?

Oh where, oh where has my little dog gone?
(Put hand on brow, looking around)
Oh where, oh where can he be?
With his ears cut short and his tail cut long,
(Point to ears, point to where tail would be)
Oh where, oh where can he be? *(Hand on brow, looking around)*

The More We Get Together

The more we get together, *(Sway child from side to side in time to music)*
Together, together,
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.

For your friends are my friends, *(Point to child, then to self)*
And my friends are your friends, *(Point to self, then to child)*
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.

Additional Verse

The more we play together...

Rhymes

Fiddle-Dee-Dee

Fiddle-dee-dee, fiddle-dee-dee, *(Clap hands in time to rhyme)*
A dog and a cat sat next to me.
Dog jumped up, on my knee, *(Jump hands up in air, then pat knees)*
Fiddle-dee, fiddle-dee, fiddle-dee-dee. *(Clap in time to rhyme)*
Arf-arf!

Fiddle-dee-dee, fiddle-dee-dee, *(Clap hands in time to rhyme)*
A dog and a cat sat next to me.
Cat jumped up, on my knee, *(Jump hands up in air, then pat knees)*
Fiddle-dee, fiddle-dee, fiddle-dee-dee. *(Clap in time to rhyme)*
Meee-ow!

My Kitty Cat

I love my kitty,
Her coat is so warm. *("Pet" one fist with other hand)*
And if I don't hurt her,
She'll do me no harm.

So I don't pull her tail, *(Pretend to pull tail)*
Nor chase her away, *(Motion hands in chasing motion)*
Because kitty and I
So gently play. *("Pet" one fist with other hand)*

She sits on my lap. *(Pat hands on lap)*
I'd kiss her if I could, *(Make kissing sound)*
Because I love kitty, *("Pet" one fist with other hand)*
And treat her good.

Leg Over Leg

Leg over leg, *(Bounce baby on knees)*
Dog went to Dover.
He came to a wall.
Jump! He went over! *(Lift up high on "jump")*