

Let's Make Music and Dance!

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

Babies are fascinated by music from birth. One of the first musical concepts a baby learns is rhythm, which is essential to language and literacy, as well as balance and coordination. This storytime celebrates the rhythmic foundation of music with dance and the playing of musical instruments.

Books

For books to share in this storytime, pick three from the list below, or choose other board books or picture books in your collection that reflect the theme and are developmentally appropriate for babies and young toddlers. Always share your longest book first. For your second, choose a participatory book that engages the child or both the caregiver and child. For the third and last story, share a book told through the use of a flannel board or magnetic board, or use a prop or other visual. The examples provided in the storytime program fit these guidelines. If most children are restless and you feel the program is too long for that day, skip the last story and concentrate on the rhymes and songs.

Book Suggestions:

- *Baby Dance*, by Ann Taylor (HarperFestival, 1998)
- *Baby Danced the Polka*, by Karen Beaumont (Dial, 2004)
- *Dance with Me*, by Charles R. Smith Jr. (Candlewick, 2008)
- *Do Your Ears Hang Low?* by Caroline Jayne Church (Egmont, 2002)
- *Fiddle-I-Fee*, by Melissa Sweet (Little, Brown, 1992)
- *Five in the Bed (Baby Fun)*, by DK Publishing (Dorling Kindersley, 2003)
- *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*, by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2003)
- *Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes (A Teddy Bear Sing-Along Book)*, by David Ellwand (Silver Dolphin Books, 2011)
- *Hey Diddle Diddle!* by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2007)
- *Jazz Baby*, by Lisa Wheeler (Harcourt Children's, 2007)

- *Maisy Likes Music*, by Lucy Cousins (Candlewick, 2003)
- *Pots and Pans*, by Patricia Hubbell (HarperFestival, 1998)
- *Ring Around the Rosie*, by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2003)
- *Row, Row, Row Your Boat (A Teddy Bear Sing-Along Book)*, by David Ellwand (Silver Dolphin Books, 2011)
- *Shake Shake Shake*, by Andrea and Brian Pinkney (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1997)
- *Ten in the Bed*, by David Ellwand (Chronicle Books, 2002)
- *The Wheels on the Bus (A Teddy Bear Sing-Along Book)*, by David Ellwand (Silver Dolphin Books, 2010)
- *Watch Me Dance*, by Andrea and Brian Pinkney (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1997)

Songs

This storytime includes five songs. The same opening and closing songs should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. Always provide movements or motions to accompany each song, but keep these simple, such as the caregiver rocking the baby back and forth, bouncing the baby in time to the music, or clapping the baby's hands. Using recorded music during the storytime is fine, although it's best to sing the songs with a live voice, or sing along with simple recordings, so that very young children can hear the words and the sounds making up each word. Recorded music is often sung too fast for this purpose. For your reference or to play during storytime, The Very Ready Reading Program includes a CD of songs recorded at an appropriate tempo. Track numbers for each recording are provided in the songlist below and on the storytime program card.

Songs for This Storytime:

- Opening Song: "If You're Happy to Be Here" (sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It") 🎧 22 🎵 23
- "The Noble Duke of York" 🎧 31
- "Ring Around the Rosie" 🎧 39
- "Rig-a-Jig-Jig" 🎧 38
- Closing Song: "The More We Get Together" 🎧 28 🎵 29

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Rhymes

This storytime includes three rhymes, with movements to accompany them. Caregivers perform the movements with the child, depending on the child's ability. For babies, the caregiver can move the child's hands, fingers, and body, or otherwise help the baby execute the movements. Young toddlers may be able to do the movements themselves or may need a little help. Keep in mind that children up to 24 months of age have not developed fine motor skills to the same degree as older toddlers and preschoolers; open and close motions are better than, say, putting one finger down at a time. The Very Ready Reading Program storytimes include different types of movement rhymes for variety, such as bounce/lift, finger/hand, and toe/foot rhymes.

Rhymes for This Storytime:

- "Hey Diddle Diddle" (hand)
- "Dance, Little Baby" (bounce/lift)
- "Old King Cole" (hand/movement)

Activities

This storytime includes an optional theme-related activity, to be completed after the closing song. Below are three to choose from, including at least one that is suitable for the youngest babies. The activity you choose might depend on the size or predominant age of your audience, the amount of time you have to prepare, your space or environment, and the materials needed. The activities are designed with safety and the very limited attention spans of babies and young toddlers in mind. However, always keep in mind and remind caregivers: **Any time an activity involves materials such as paint, sand, string, or small pieces, close adult supervision is required.** Although each activity has a learning aspect, the emphasis should be on fun!

Activity Suggestions:

Shaker Fun. Baby rattles and shakers are ideal first instruments for babies. Here are some shaker possibilities. *Paper Bag Shaker:* Place dried beans into a small paper bag and tie the bag securely with ribbon, tape, or a rubber band. *Egg Shaker:* Small plastic colored eggs can be filled with dried beans or beads. Make sure egg halves are securely taped together. This activity requires close adult supervision.

Baby Musical Instruments. Offer a collection of musical instruments appropriate for babies, and let them play to their hearts' content (with or without accompanying music).

Scarf Dancing. Babies and toddlers love scarf play! Play some lively music, and let adults play peekaboo with their babies using lightweight silk scarves made for children's play or a collection of women's silk scarves; young toddlers will love dancing to the music and moving their scarves. Alternatively, have adults tie several brightly colored ribbons to a plastic shower curtain ring. The child can wave the ribbon rings (similar to scarf play) while listening to music.

Early Literacy Tips

Promote the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles with parents and caregivers by emphasizing the three early literacy tips found in the yellow boxes in the storytime program.