

Monkeying Around

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 nonfiction books about monkeys. Focus on a few fun facts, and ask your child about her favorite monkey fact.
- **SHARE WORDS** There are many species of monkeys. Teach your child names of some of them, such as baboon, marmoset, spider, squirrel, black howler, and mandrill. Explain that groups of monkeys are called a troop or a tribe and that baby monkeys are called babies just like human babies.
- **SHARE RHYMES** Play rhyming games with your child. For example, have your child fill in the blank with a word that rhymes with tree: “What can a monkey see from a tree? A monkey can see a . (bee, sea).
- **SHARE SONGS** Sing songs throughout the day. In addition to the songs we sang in storytime, share some of your favorites—even pop songs!
- **SHARE STORIES** Make up a story about Funky Monkey. Let your child help. Ask questions that will help your child advance the story: Where does he live? Does he have any brothers or sisters? What is his favorite food? What does he do all day?
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** If possible, take a trip to the zoo to visit the monkeys. Or act out monkey antics, playing Monkey See, Monkey Do. First explain that monkeys are great at copying the actions of others. Introduce the words “copycat” and “mimic.” Explain that this is one of the ways that monkeys learn. Perform actions, such as jumping in place, clapping, stamping your feet, and hopping, and have your child copy your actions.
- **SHARE WRITING** Not all monkeys are able to use their thumbs like humans and some apes can. Have your child try to write his name without using his thumb.

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.

Ten Little Monkeys

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

One little, two little, three little monkeys,
(*Hold up two hands and point to each finger in turn*)
Four little, five little, six little monkeys,
Seven little, eight little, nine little monkeys,
Ten monkeys at the zoo.

One little monkey does some tricks. (*Hold up one finger*)
Four little monkeys play with sticks. (*Pretend to play with sticks*)
Seven little monkeys stand in line.
(*Move hand to make a straight line*)
Ten are swinging on vines. (*Pretend to swing on a vine*)

One little, two little, three little monkeys,
(*Hold up two hands and point to each finger in turn*)
Four little, five little, six little monkeys,
Seven little, eight little, nine little monkeys,
Ten monkeys at the zoo.

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

Pop Goes the Weasel

(Clap to the beat until the line "Pop! goes the weasel" and then pop hands up in air)

All around the cobbler's bench,
The monkey chased the weasel,
The monkey thought 'twas all in fun,
POP! goes the weasel.

A penny for a spool of thread,
A penny for a needle,
That's the way the money goes,
POP! goes the weasel.

Five Little Monkeys

Five little monkeys jumping on the bed, *(Child jumps up and down)*
One fell off and bumped his head. *(Point to head)*
Mama called the doctor, and the doctor said,
(Hold palm for phone; hit "buttons" with other hand)
No more monkeys jumping on the bed!
(Shake one finger for "no")

Additional Verses

(All verses follow motions given in first verse)

Four little monkeys jumping on the bed ...
Three little monkeys jumping on the bed ...
Two little monkeys jumping on the bed ...

One little monkey jumping on the bed,
He fell off and bumped his head.
Mama called the doctor, and the doctor said,
Put all the little monkeys back to bed!

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

This Little Monkey

This little monkey ate bananas. *(Pretend to eat a banana)*
This little monkey chased some bees. *(Move hand as if chasing bees)*
This little monkey did a somersault. *(Roll hands over each other)*
This little monkey slapped her knees. *(Slap knees)*
And this little monkey went "Ooh! Ooh! Ooh!"
(Curl hands into armpits like a monkey)
Swinging through the trees. *(Pretend to swing on a vine)*

Monkey See, Monkey Do

(Have your child do actions as given)

Chorus:

Monkey see, monkey do,
The monkey does the same as you.

So when you clap, clap, clap your hands,
The monkey clap, clap, claps his hands.

Chorus

And when you stamp, stamp, stamp your feet,
The monkey stamp, stamp, stamps his feet.

Chorus

And when you jump, jump, jump up high,
The monkey jump, jump, jumps up high.

Chorus

And when you make a funny face,
The monkey makes a funny face.

Chorus

And when you turn yourself around,
The monkey turns himself around.

Chorus

Three Little Monkeys

Three little monkeys, sitting in a tree,
(Hold up five fingers and bounce hand)
Teasing Mr. Alligator,
You can't catch me! *(Shake index finger)*
Along comes Mr. Alligator, quiet as can be,
(Place finger to lips as if to say "Shhh")
SNAP! *(Clap)*

Additional Stanzas

Two little monkeys ...

One little monkey ...

No more monkeys sitting in the tree. *(Shake head "no")*