

Monkeying Around

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

Preschoolers love monkeys! Monkeys are known for imitative behavior, which makes them very appealing to this age group. This storytime highlights some classic books and songs about these primates.

Books

For books to share in this storytime, pick three from the list below, or choose other books in your collection that reflect the theme and are developmentally appropriate for fours and fives. Always share your longest book first. For your second, try to choose a participatory book that engages the children and ask the caregivers to join in. 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.

Book Suggestions:

- *Caps for Sale*, by Esphyr Slobodkina (HarperCollins, 2008 reissue)
- *Chimp and Zee*, by Laurence Anholt (Phyllis Fogelman Books, 2001)
- *Curious George*, by H.A. Rey (HMH, 1973)
- *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*, by Eileen Christelow (Perfection Learning, 1989)
- *Five Little Monkeys Sitting in a Tree*, by Eileen Christelow (Clarion, 1991)
- *Good Night, Gorilla*, by Peggy Rathmann (Putnam, 1994)
- *Naughty Little Monkeys*, by Jim Aylesworth (Perfection Learning, 2006)
- *Ten Naughty Little Monkeys*, by Suzanne Williams (HarperCollins, 2007)
- *Two Little Monkeys*, by Mem Fox (Beach Lane, 2012)
- *What Time Is It, Mr. Crocodile?* by Judy Sierra (HMH, 2004)

Songs

This storytime includes five songs. The same opening song and closing song should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. Always provide some type of movement or motions to accompany each song. Using recorded music during the storytime is fine, but try to sing some songs with a live voice so that children can hear the words and the sounds making up each word. The Very Ready Reading Program includes CDs with all the songs in the storytimes, recorded at an appropriate tempo for this age group. Track numbers for each recording are provided in the songlist below and on the storytime program card.

Songs for This Storytime:

- Opening Song: “Moving Hands” (sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”) 🎧 2.08 🎵 2.09
- “Ten Little Monkeys” (sung to the tune of “Bumping Up and Down in My Little Red Wagon”) 🎧 2.19
- “Pop Goes the Weasel” 🎧 2.14
- “Five Little Monkeys” 🎧 1.21
- Closing Song: “Library Storytime Song” (sung to the tune of “I’ve Been Workin’ on the Railroad”) 🎧 2.01 🎵 2.02

Alternate Songs:

- “Monkey in the Middle” by The Learning Station, *Physical Ed.* Hug-A-Chug Records, 2000.
- “Five Little Monkeys” by Greg and Steve, *Ready... Set... Move!* Greg and Steve Productions, 2004.
- “Five Little Monkeys” by The Learning Station, *Literacy in Motion.* Hug-A-Chug Records, 2005.
- “Five Little Monkey’s” by Dr. Jean, *Dr. Jean and Friends.* Music Design, 2007.
- “B-Banana/Monkey See, Monkey Do!” by Carole Peterson, *Stinky Cake.* CD Baby, 2005.
- “Monkeys and the Alligator” by Dr. Jean, *Dr. Jean and Friends.* Music Design, 2007.
- “Pop Goes the Weasel” by Pamela Beall and Susan Nipp, *Wee Sing: Children’s Songs and Fingerplays.* Price Stern Sloan, 2006.

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Rhymes

This storytime includes three rhymes. The rhymes used in these storytimes have motions that are appropriate for fours and fives with developing fine motor skills.

Rhymes for This Storytime:

- “This Little Monkey”
- “Monkey See, Monkey Do”
- “Three Little Monkeys”

Activities

This storytime includes an optional theme-related activity, to be completed after the closing song. Below are three to choose from. 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 attention spans and fine motor abilities of fours and fives 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 having fun!

Activity Suggestions:

Monkey Painting/Building. Tell children that not all monkeys are able to use their thumbs like humans can. Invite children to pretend to be monkeys. Have them finger paint on a tabletop without using their thumbs. Suggest that they draw a monkey face in the finger paint (circle with facial features and big ears). Or, if you do not want to use paint, see if they can build something with Lego® building blocks without using their thumbs.

Monkey See, Monkey Do. Tell children 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. Play the copycat game called Monkey See, Monkey Do with little ones. Perform actions, such as jumping in place, clapping, stamping your feet, and hopping, and have children copy your actions.

Five Little Monkey Stick Puppets. Download the five little monkeys and mother stick puppets from www.upstartpromotions.com/upstart/pages/reproducibles and reproduce for each child. Have children cut out (may need adult assistance), color, and tape craft sticks on the back of each monkey. Children can use their puppets to act out the rhyme at home.



Early Literacy Tips

Throughout each storytime program, you'll find yellow boxes that feature early literacy tips. As you present your program, share these tips with parents and caregivers to help promote the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles. The tips are designed to easily be infused into the storytime without interrupting the natural flow of the program for children. The Caregiver Tip Sheets you will hand out at the end of each program reiterate the literacy tips you shared during the storytime.