

Nursery Rhymes

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

Nursery rhymes aren't just silly and fun to share. They also help babies hear the different sounds in language, understand speech patterns and rhythms, and learn new vocabulary. It doesn't matter if the rhymes make sense! Little ones also find the rhythm and rhyme comforting. So today, let's "Hey Diddle Diddle" away!

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:

- *Big Fat Hen*, by Keith Baker (Sandpiper, 1999)
- *Clare Beaton's Action Rhymes*, by Clare Beaton (Barefoot Books, 2010)
- *Clare Beaton's Nursery Rhymes*, by Clare Beaton (Barefoot Books, 2010)
- *Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*, by Jane Cabrera (Holiday House, 2010)
- *Hey Diddle Diddle!* by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2007)
- *Hickory Dickory Dock*, by Keith Baker (Harcourt Children's, 2007)
- *Hickory Dickory Dock and Other Favorite Nursery Rhymes*, by Sanja Rescek (Tiger Tales, 2006)
- *Humpty Dumpty*, by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2010)

- *I'm a Little Teapot*, by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2007)
- *Pat-a-Cake*, by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2010)
- *Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat*, by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2007)
- *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*, by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2003)
- *Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Turn Around*, by Scholastic (Children's Press, 2012)
- *This Little Piggy*, by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2008)
- *This Little Piggy and Other Favorite Action Rhymes*, by Hannah Wood (Tiger Tales, 2010)
- *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star and Other Favorite Bedtime Rhymes*, by Sanja Rescek (Tiger Tales, 2006)
- *Wee Willie Winkie*, by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2007)

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
- "Hickory Dickory Dock" 🎧 17

Presenter Tip Sheet for Nursery Rhymes

- “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”  40
- “Where Is Thumbkin?” (sung to the tune of “Frere Jacques/ Are You Sleeping?”)  56
- Closing Song: “The More We Get Together”  28  29

Rhymes

This storytime includes three rhymes. For babies, the caregiver will be moving the child’s hands, fingers, and body, or otherwise helping the baby execute the rhyme. Young toddlers may need help, or they may be able to do the rhymes themselves. 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:

“Humpty Dumpty” (bounce/hand)

“Little Miss Muffet” (finger/hand)

“This Little Piggy” (toe/foot)

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:

Move and Play. Offer an active time when babies and toddlers can act out or move to nursery rhymes as you recite them. Have caregivers lay babies down and do “bicycle legs” to the beat of a nursery rhyme; then do the same rhyme while moving the baby’s arms up and down. Young toddlers can do the motions themselves, with the assistance of adults.

Nursery Rhyme Book. Provide photocopies on colored paper of various nursery rhymes, and have caregivers choose five or six of their child’s favorite rhymes. Provide quart-size resealable plastic bags, five or six per person. Caregivers can staple the bottoms of all the bags together and cover the staples, both sides, with wide tape so that the child does not get hurt. Insert a rhyme in each bag. Each family will have its own nursery rhyme book to take home. A first page could be “(Child’s Name) Nursery Rhyme Book,” and children can color this first page with large chunky crayons.

Singing Nursery Rhymes. Play a recording of nursery rhymes such as *Wee Sing Nursery Rhymes and Lullabies*, by Pamela Conn Beall and Susan Hagan Nipp, and have babies and toddlers clap, bounce, crawl, and/or move to the music. You can also provide some simple musical instruments appropriate for babies and have them “play” along.

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.