

Old MacDonald's Farm

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** Reading rhyming books often to your child helps him hear parts of words—an important prereading skill. Hearing the smaller sounds in words helps your child sound out words when he learns to read.
- **SHARE WORDS** Talk about some of the more exotic animals that can be found on farms. What type of sounds do they make? Add them to the “Old MacDonald Had a Farm” song. Examples might include llamas, bison, peacocks, and flamingos.
- **SHARE RHYMES** Many nursery rhymes are related to farms and farm animals, so share as many as you can remember! In addition to the ones we used in storytime, share “Hey, Diddle Diddle,” “This Little Pig,” “Baa, Baa, Black Sheep,” and “Oats, Peas, Beans, and Barley Grow.”
- **SHARE SONGS** Some songs, like “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” tell a story. When sharing such songs, encourage your child to retell the story and add more details or make up new verses.
- **SHARE STORIES** Telling stories helps your child form her own mental images of characters and places instead of relying on illustrations.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Egg hunts can be done any time of the year! Hide plastic eggs, and give your child a basket to find the eggs. Or have your child help decorate a pumpkin, help shuck corn, etc. For these last two activities, describe your actions and the process.
- **SHARE WRITING** Provide farm-animal cookie cutters and play dough. As children work with the dough, they are using the small muscles in their hands that will be used for writing. Encourage your child to roll and pinch and squeeze the dough.

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

It's Time for Storytime

(sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”)

It's time for storytime, (*Clap hands to beat*)
It's time for storytime,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
It's time for storytime.

We listen to some stories, (*Two fingers point to ears*)
We listen to some stories,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
We listen to some stories.

We sing some songs and rhymes, (*Two fingers point to mouth*)
We sing some songs and rhymes,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
We sing some songs and rhymes.

And now we'll have some fun, (*Pat knees or legs*)
And now we'll have some fun,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
And now we'll have some fun!

Old MacDonald Had a Farm

Old MacDonald had a farm—E-I-E-I-O!
(*Have child clap to the beat on the “E-I-E-I-Os”*)
And on this farm he had some cows—E-I-E-I-O!
With a moo, moo here, and a moo, moo there,
(*Open hand in a “mooing” motion*)
Here a moo, there a moo, everywhere a moo, moo,
Old MacDonald had a farm—E-I-E-I-O!

Additional Verses

...And on this farm he had some sheep (baa, baa)
...And on this farm he had some chickens (cluck, cluck)

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Down on Grandpa's Farm

Chorus:

We're on our way, we're on our way, on our way
to Grandpa's farm.

We're on our way, we're on our way, on our way
to Grandpa's farm. (*Clap for each chorus*)

Down on Grandpa's farm there is a little red hen.
(*Show little size with hands*)

Down on Grandpa's farm there is a little red hen.
The hen, she makes a sound like this: Cluck! Cluck!
(*Make clucking motion with hands*)

The hen, she makes a sound like this: Cluck! Cluck!
(*Make clucking motion with hands*)

Chorus

Down on Grandpa's farm there is a big brown cow.
(*Show big size with hands*)

Down on Grandpa's farm there is a big brown cow.
The cow, she makes a sound like this: Mooooooo!
(*Make a "mooring" motion with hands*)

The cow, she makes a sound like this: Mooooooo!

Chorus

Down on Grandpa's farm there is a little white duck.
(*Show little size with hands*)

Down on Grandpa's farm there is a little white duck.
The duck, he makes a sound like this: Quack! Quack!
(*Make quacking motion with hands*)

The duck, he makes a sound like this: Quack! Quack!

Chorus

Mary Had a Little Lamb

(*Child sways or bounces to the beat of the music*)

Mary had a little lamb,
Little lamb, little lamb,
Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow.

Everywhere that Mary went,
Mary went, Mary went,
Everywhere that Mary went,
The lamb was sure to go.

Rhymes

Little Boy Blue

Little Boy Blue,
Come blow your horn. (*Pretend to blow horn*)
The sheep are in the meadow, (*Sweep arm to the left*)
The cow is in the corn. (*Sweep arm to the right*)
Where is the little boy
Who looks after the sheep? (*Shield eyes with hand and
look around*)
He's under the haystack,
Fast asleep. (*Rest cheek on hand, pretending to sleep*)
Will you wake him?
No, not I. (*Shake head "no"*)
For if I do,
He'll surely cry. (*Pretend to cry*)

Little Bo Peep

Little Bo Peep
Has lost her sheep (*Shield eyes with hand and look around*)
And doesn't know where to find them.
Leave them alone (*Wave finger "no"*)
And they will come home
Wagging their tails behind them.
(*Hold hands together and make wagging motion*)

This Little Cow

(*Point to one finger for each line*)
This little cow eats grass,
This little cow eats hay.
This little cow drinks water,
This little cow runs away.
And this little cow does nothing,
But lie around all day.

Wave Goodbye

Wave high.Wave low. (*Suit motions to words*)
I think it's time, we gotta go.
Wave your elbows.Wave your toes.
Wave your tongue and wave your nose.
Wave your knees.Wave your lips.
Blow a kiss, with fingertips.
Wave your ears.Wave your hair.
Wave your belly and derriere.
Wave your chin.Wave your eye.
Wave your hand and say "goodbye."

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