

Old MacDonald's Farm

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

Two- and three-year-olds are intrigued by farm animals and are at the perfect age to identify the sounds these animals make. This storytime introduces the popular subject and is rich in nursery rhymes and songs that relate to farm animals, all important for young children's verbal and cognitive skills.

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 twos and threes. Always share your longest book first. For the second book, 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:

- *Barnyard Banter*, by Denise Fleming (Henry Holt, 1994)
- *Does a Cow Say Boo?* by Judy Hindley (Candlewick, 2002)
- *Down on the Farm*, by Merrily Kutner (Holiday House, 2005)
- *Farm! A BIG Fold-Out Book about Colors*, by Lori Froeb (Reader's Digest, 2008)
- *Giant Pop-Out Farm*, by Chronicle Books (Chronicle, 2010)
- *I Spy on the Farm*, by Edward Gibbs (Templar, 2013)
- *My Farm Friends*, by Wendell Minor (Putnam, 2011)
- *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*, by David Ellwand (Silver Dolphin Books, 2010)
- *Silly Little Goose!* by Nancy Tafuri (Scholastic, 2001)
- *This Is the Farmer*, by Nancy Tafuri (Greenwillow, 1994)
- *Who Sank the Boat?* by Pamela Allen (Puffin, 1996)

Songs

This storytime includes four songs. The same opening 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, but keep the movements simple. If you use a song that normally has many verses, consider limiting it to two or three verses. Using recorded music during the storytime is fine, but try to sing as many songs as you can with a live voice so that young children can hear the words and the sounds making up each word. Recorded music is usually sung too fast for this purpose. 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 song list below and on the storytime program card.

Songs for This Storytime:

- Opening Song: "It's Time for Storytime" (sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell") 🎧 2.03 🎵 2.04
- "Down on Grandpa's Farm" 🎧 1.21
- "Mary Had a Little Lamb" 🎧 2.09
- "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" 🎧 2.12

Rhymes

This storytime includes four rhymes. The same closing rhyme should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. The rhymes used in these storytimes have motions that are appropriate for twos and threes, who still have some limited fine motor skills. Younger children may need caregivers' help with the motions in these rhymes.

Rhymes for This Storytime:

- "Little Boy Blue"
- "Little Bo Peep"
- "This Little Cow"
- Closing Rhyme: "Wave Goodbye"

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Activities

This storytime includes an optional theme-related activity, to be completed after the closing rhyme. Below are three activities 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 twos and threes in mind. Always remember and remind caregivers: **Any activity that involves materials such as paint, sand, string, or small pieces requires close adult supervision.** Although each activity has a learning aspect, the emphasis should be on having fun!

Activity Suggestions:

Play Dough Animals. Have children use cookie cutters to cut farm animals from play dough.

Creative Dramatics: Farm Animals. Encourage children to imitate farm animals: Lumber and moo like a cow, strut and crow like a rooster, waddle and quack like a duck, roll in the mud and oink like a pig, gallop and neigh like a horse.

Farm Animal Puppets. Download the animal bag puppet faces from www.upstartpromotions.com/upstart/pages/reproducibles and give one to each child, along with a paper lunch sack. Invite children to color their animal faces and then glue them to the bottoms of their paper sacks. Demonstrate how to glue the heads onto the sacks: Lay the paper sack flat, with the open end of the bag closest to you and the folded bottom away from you. The top of the animal's head will be at the top of the bag, and the folded area of the bag will become the mouth of the puppet.



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.