

Peekaboo!

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

Little ones love the anticipation and surprise of peekaboo. Around eight or nine months, when babies understand that objects out of sight still exist (“object permanence”), they find peekaboo especially funny. For older babies and young toddlers, lift-the-flap books offer a whole new form of the game. This storytime introduces the delight of peekaboo in songs, books, and activities.

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:

- *Amazing Baby: Peekaboo Puppy*, by Emma Dodd (Silver Dolphin Books, 2009)
- *Baby Faces Peek-a-Boo*, by DK Publishing (DK Preschool, 2008)
- *Bedtime Peekaboo*, by Dawn Sirett (DK Preschool, 2006)
- *Dress Up Peekaboo*, by Charlie Gardner (DK Preschool, 2007)
- *Hoppity Hop Peekaboo*, by Dawn Sirett (DK Preschool, 2010)
- *Peek-a-Baby* (large board edition), by Karen Katz (Little Simon, 2010)
- *Peek-a-Boo!* by Roberta Grobel Intrater (Cartwheel, 1997)
- *Peek-a-Boo: Nursery Games*, by Annie Kubler (Child’s Play International, 2006)
- *Peekaboo Baby*, by Sebestein Braun (Candlewick, 2011)
- *Peekaboo Baby*, by Margaret Miller (Little Simon, 2001)
- *Peek-a-Boo, I Love You*, by Sandra Magsamen (Little, Brown Kids, 2009)
- *Peekaboo Kisses*, by Barney Saltzberg (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2002)
- *Peekaboo Morning*, by Rachel Isadora (Putnam, 2002)
- *Peek-a-Boo Pets*, by Francesca Ferri (Barron’s Educational, 2009)
- *Peek-a-Boo What?* by Begin Smart Books (Begin Smart, 2009)
- *Peek-a-Love*, by Salina Yoon (Little Simon, 2010)
- *Peek-a-Moo*, by Marie Torres Cimarusti (Dutton, 1998)
- *Playtime Peek-a-Boo*, by Dawn Sirett (DK Preschool, 2005)
- *Where Is Baby’s Belly Button?* (large board edition), by Karen Katz (Little Simon, 2010)

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
- “Where Is Baby?” (sung to the tune of “Jingle Bells”) 🎧 55
- “Singing Peekaboo” (sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”) 🎧 44
- “I Look in the Mirror” (sung to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”) 🎧 21
- Closing Song: “The More We Get Together” 🎧 28 🎵 29

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Rhymes

This storytime includes three rhymes, with movements to accompany them. Caregivers perform the movements with the child, depending on the child's ability. For babies, the caregiver can move the child's hands, fingers, and body, or otherwise help the baby execute the movements. Young toddlers may be able to do the movements themselves or may need a little help. 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:

- "Open Them, Shut Them" (finger/hand)
- "Jack in the Box" (bounce/lift)
- "Where Are Baby's Hands?" (finger/hand)

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:

Peekaboo Games. Assemble a variety of colorful scarves, fabric, and small towels or blankets, plus a collection of small, baby-safe toys. Adults and children can engage in dramatic play by playing peekaboo. To extend this activity, especially for young toddlers, cut simple shapes out of various colors of construction paper, supplying each family with one set of colored shapes. The colors can also be hidden under the scarves. When they are revealed, caregivers can identify the shape and the color: "Oh, it's a blue circle!"

Lift-the-Flap Book. Flap books are a delightful form of peekaboo play. Have families make their own lift-the-flap book with magazine pictures or family photos. Tape the pictures or photos onto heavy cardstock. Then make a flap with colorful construction paper, taping it over the picture to hide the image.

Hide and Seek. Wind up or turn on a musical toy, hide it, and invite little ones to find it. For babies, the toy can be hidden behind the caregiver's back or under a scarf. For crawlers and walkers, the toy can be hidden behind an object in the room or under a basket or box. When the toy is found, be sure to say, "peekaboo!" (If you don't have enough musical toys, an alternative is to provide each family with a small stuffed toy. Caregivers can hide the toy for the baby, as above, or for the young toddler to find with verbal clues and encouragement.)

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.