

Pet Parade

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** Find both fiction and nonfiction books about pets you own or that your child would like to have. This is an opportunity for you and your child to learn together. You don't need to read every word in the nonfiction book—you can just talk about what you see in the pictures and ask your child questions about the pictures.
- **SHARE WORDS** Talk about some unusual pets that people might own. Examples include ferrets, guinea pigs, iguanas, geckos, and hermit crabs.
- **SHARE RHYMES** In storytime we shared the rhyme “Three Little Pets,” which is an adaption of a familiar rhyme you probably know. Make up new words to familiar rhymes and have your child join in on the refrain.
- **SHARE SONGS** Say the rhyme “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” and then sing it. Singing draws out words so that your child can hear the individual sounds of the words more easily.
- **SHARE STORIES** Make up stories about family pets; if you do not have a pet, have your child help make up stories about a pet they would like to have. What is its name? What is it like? What does it eat?
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Have your child pretend to be a dog, and you pretend to be the owner. Teach your “dog” a few dog tricks like how to roll over, sit and beg, shake, dance, bark on command, and chase her tail.
- **SHARE WRITING** Give your child paper and large crayons, and have him draw a picture of his pet or a pet he would like to own. Then write the name of the pet on the top of the paper while your child is watching. Say the names of the letters as you write them.

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!

How Much Is That Doggie in the Window?

How much is that doggie in the window? Arf! Arf!
(*Tap fingers in barking motion or clap on “Arf! Arf!”*)
The one with the waggily tail? Arf! Arf!
How much is that doggie in the window? Arf! Arf!
I do hope that doggie's for sale. Arf! Arf!

How much is that kitty in the window? Meow! Meow!
(*Tap fingers in meowing motion or clap on “Meow! Meow!”*)
The one with the long furry tail? Meow! Meow!
How much is that kitty in the window? Meow! Meow!
I do hope that kitty's for sale. Meow! Meow!

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

Little Polly Parakeet

(sung to the tune of "Down by the Station")

Little Polly Parakeet

Sits on Daddy's shoulder. *(Pat hands on shoulders)*

When he turns his face to her,

She kisses him on the cheek.

(Hold up palm of one hand and kiss it)

Little Polly Parakeet *(Pat hands on shoulders)*

Sits on Mommy's shoulder.

Whistling a happy tune

Before she goes to sleep. *(Rest head on hand as if sleeping)*

Little Polly Parakeet

Sits upon my shoulder. *(Pat hands on shoulders)*

Soft and green and very sweet

Is Polly Parakeet! *(Hold out one hand and rub with other hand)*

Mary Had a Little Lamb

Mary had a little lamb,

(Hold out one hand and "pet" it with the other hand)

Little lamb, little lamb,

Mary had a little lamb,

Its fleece was white as snow.

Everywhere that Mary went,

(Hold hands together in a prayer position, and move them back and forth)

Mary went, Mary went,

Everywhere that Mary went,

The lamb was sure to go.

Rhymes

I've Got a Dog

(Suit actions to the words)

I've got a dog as thin as a rail,

He's got fleas all over his tail.

Every time his tail goes flop,

The fleas on the bottom all hop to the top.

Three Little Pets

Three little pets jumped up on the bed,

(Child jumps up and down in place)

One fell off and bumped his little head. *(Touch or hold head)*

Mama called the vet, and the vet said,

(Hold hand to ear like phone)

"No more pets jumping up on the bed." *(Wag finger "no")*

Additional Verses

Two little pets jumped up on the bed...

(Repeat motions as above)

One little pet jumped up on the bed...

(Repeat motions as above)

Three little pets jumped up on the bed,

None fell off and bumped their little head,

(Spoken softly) Because they fell asleep.

(Finger to mouth in "shhh" gesture)

Little Bo Peep

Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep,

(Shield eyes with hands, looking for sheep)

And doesn't know where to find them;

Leave them alone, and they'll come home,

(Hold palms together and make wagging motion)

Wagging their tails behind them.

Little Bo Peep begins to weep,

(Trace fingers down cheeks as tears)

She doesn't know how to find her sheep,

Leave them alone, and they'll come home,

(Hold palms together and make wagging motion)

Wagging their tails behind them.

Little Bo Peep had lost her sheep,

(Shield eyes with hands, looking for sheep)

And didn't know where to find them,

But she left them alone, and they came home,

(Hold palms together and make wagging motion)

Wagging their tails behind them.

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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