

Pet Show

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

Young children love learning to identify animals—including dogs, cats, and other pets at home, in the neighborhood, and in storybooks. This storytime helps little ones understand that pets can be loved as family members. For children who may be afraid of certain animals, today's program offers reassurance that when approached appropriately, these animals are nothing to be afraid of. To make pets nonthreatening, consider putting up a display of plush animals suitable for babies.

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:

- *Bark Park*, by Karen Gray Ruelle (Peachtree, 2008)
- *Bunny* (Baby Touch and Feel), by DK Publishing (DK, 2012)
- *Cat*, by Matthew Van Fleet (Simon & Schuster, 2009)
- *Dear Zoo: A Lift-the-Flap Book*, by Rod Campbell (Little Simon, 2007)
- *Do Your Ears Hang Low?* by Caroline Jayne Church (Chicken House, 2002)
- *Dog*, by Matthew Van Fleet (Simon & Schuster, 2007)
- *Giant Pop-Out Pets*, by Amelia Powers (Chronicle Books, 2007)
- *Have You Seen My Cat?* by Eric Carle (Little Simon, 1996)
- *Hello, Calico!* by Karma Wilson (Little Simon, 2007)
- *My Dog, My Cat*, by Ashlee Fletcher (Tanglewood Press, 2011)

- *Peek-a-Pet!* by Marie Cimarusti (Dutton, 2004)
- *Pets* (Baby Touch and Feel), by DK Publishing (DK, 2010)
- *Puppies and Kittens* (Baby Touch and Feel), by DK Publishing (DK, 2008)
- *Puppies and Piggies*, by Cynthia Rylant (Harcourt, 2008)
- *Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat*, by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2010)
- *Ten Little Puppies*, by Alma Flor Ada (HarperCollins, 2011)
- *That's Not My Kitten... Its Ears Are Too Soft*, by Fiona Watt (Usborne, 2006)
- *That's Not My Pony... Its Mane Is Too Fluffy*, by Fiona Watt (Usborne, 2007)
- *That's Not My Puppy... Its Coat Is Too Hairy*, by Fiona Watt (Usborne, 1999)
- *Touch and Feel Pets*, by DK Publishing (DK, 2001)
- *Where's Spot?* by Eric Hill (Putnam, 2003)
- *Wet Pet, Dry Pet, Your Pet, My Pet*, by Dr. Seuss (Random House, 2005)

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

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- “My Dog Rags” (sung to the tune of “Five Little Ducks”)  30
- “How Much Is That Doggie in the Window?”  18
- “Mary Had a Little Lamb”  27
- Closing Song: “The More We Get Together”  28  29

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:

- “Three Little Pets” (bounce/hand)
- “Fiddle-Dee-Dee” (finger/hand)
- “There Was a Little Turtle,” by Vachel Lindsay (bounce/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:

Pet Show. During the preceding week, ask caregivers to have their child bring a stuffed pet to this storytime. Mention that you will have extras if they don’t own one. Then line the pets up for a pet show, giving each pet a special ribbon, such as Funniest, Largest, Prettiest, Most Spots, and so on.

Doggie Tricks. Teach little ones some doggie tricks. They can learn to shake, roll over, beg, dance, and curl up for sleeping. Caregivers can assist younger babies.

Bean Bag Bones. Attach a laminated bone picture to beanbags (browse “bone clip art” for good reproducibles). Provide several large doggie bowls, and have young toddlers toss the beanbag bones into the bowls. For babies, encourage caregivers to touch the beanbag bones to the child’s head, toe, tummy, and hand, naming the spot on the body that the bone is touching. For example, say, “Doggie’s bone is on your toe.”

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.