

# Playtime!

## Tips 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.

- 1. SHARE BOOKS** If you are sharing a book, and your young toddler leaves to go play with a toy, keep reading awhile longer. Often she is still listening, and she may come back to the book.
- 2. SHARE SOUNDS** Repeat back sounds that your baby makes, and then after a few repetitions make a new sound for him. When speaking to babies, make sure they can see your mouth and how you are making the sound.
- 3. SHARE WORDS** Try to share some rare or unusual words when playing with your child. For example: “Look at your bear. He is wearing corduroy. Touch the corduroy and see how it feels.”
- 4. SHARE RHYMES** In addition to reciting the rhymes we used in storytime, make up some of your own. For example, try sharing words that rhyme with your child’s toys: trike, bike; ball, fall; bear, chair; rings, swings; bunny, honey; and blocks, socks.
- 5. SHARE SONGS** Continue singing the songs introduced in today’s storytime throughout the week. Make up songs while playing with your child. For example, “This is the way we roll the ball, roll the ball, roll the ball. This is the way we roll the ball, so early in the morning.”
- 6. SHARE STORIES** Make up silly stories about one of your child’s favorite stuffed creatures.
- 7. SHARE PLAYTIME** Playing with your child is never a waste of time! Play every day. Playtime creates a special bond between you and your child. It also helps her acquire confidence and self-esteem, fosters creativity, and helps develop good physical coordination.

# Songs and Rhymes for Playtime!

Here are the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with them every day, you will help your child make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

## Songs

### If You're Happy to Be Here

(sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*  
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*  
If you're happy to be here, then place a smile there, *(Point to mouth)*  
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands. *(Clap hands)*

If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*  
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*  
If you're ready to have some fun, then join in everyone,  
*(Motion hands to join in)*  
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands. *(Clap hands)*

### Bumping Up and Down in My Little Red Wagon

Bumping up and down in my little red wagon, *(Bounce child in lap)*  
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,  
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,  
Won't you be my darling?

#### Additional Verses

One wheel's off and the axle's draggin' ... *(Bounce, leaning side to side)*  
Let's get a hammer and a nail and fix it ... *(Pretend to hammer a nail)*  
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon ... *(Bounce child in lap)*

### Ring Around the Rosie

Ring around the rosie,  
*(Turn in circles while holding baby or holding toddler's hand)*  
Pocket full of posies,  
Ashes, ashes,  
We all fall down! *(Fall gently to the floor)*  
*(Repeat two or three times)*

### Pop Goes the Weasel

All around the cobbler's bench,  
*(With child on lap facing you, rock back and forth)*  
The monkey chased the weasel,  
The monkey laughed to see such fun,  
POP! goes the weasel. *(Lift baby or toddler's hands high in the air)*  
A penny for a spool of thread,  
A penny for a needle,  
That's the way the money goes,  
POP! goes the weasel. *(Lift baby or toddler's hands high in the air)*

## The More We Get Together

The more we get together, *(Sway from side to side in time to music)*  
Together, together,  
The more we get together,  
The happier we'll be.  
For your friends are my friends, *(Point to child, then to self)*  
And my friends are your friends, *(Point to self, then to child)*  
The more we get together,  
The happier we'll be.

#### Additional Verse

The more we play together...

## Rhymes

### Here's a Ball for Baby

Here's a ball for baby,  
Big and soft and round. *(Fingertips form a ball)*  
Here is baby's hammer,  
See how it can pound. *(Pound a fist on palm of other hand)*  
Here are baby's teddies,  
Standing in a row. *(Hold ten fingers erect)*  
Here is baby's music,  
Clapping, clapping so. *(Clap hands)*

### Can You Hop Like a Rabbit?

Hold a baby up on the lap and act out the motions. Young toddlers can act out motions themselves.

Can you hop like a rabbit?  
Can you jump like a frog?  
Can you walk like a duck?  
Can you run like a dog?  
Can you fly like a bird?  
Can you swim like a fish?  
Can you sit still, just like this?

### Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear

Hold a toddler's hands or hold a baby in arms while acting out the rhyme.

Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn around,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the ground,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, reach up high,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the sky,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, go to bed,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, rest your head,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn out the light,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, say good night.