

Playtime!

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

For children, play means fun! But play is also crucial for the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development of babies and young toddlers—especially play that involves movement and all five senses. When caregivers play with their children, they help the child grow and they strengthen the bond between them with shared joy and laughter. Let's play!

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:

- *All Fall Down*, by Helen Oxenbury (Walker Children's, 2009)
- *Blast Off Baby Bundt: A Recipe for Playtime*, by Jamie Harper (Candlewick, 2009)
- *Bumpety Bump: A Lap Game for Babies*, by Kathy Henderson (Candlewick, 1994)
- *Clap Your Hands: An Action Book*, by David Ellwand (Handprint, Chronicle Books, 2002)
- *Having Fun Just Like Us!* by Jess Stockham (Child's Play International, 2009)
- *Hop a Little, Jump a Little!* by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2010)
- *Humpty Dumpty*, by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2010)
- *I'm a Little Teapot*, by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2007)

- *Llama Llama Hoppity-Hop*, by Anna Dewdney (Viking Juvenile, 2012)
- *Llama Llama Zippity-Zoom*, by Anna Dewdney (Viking Juvenile, 2012)
- *Puddle Jumping*, by Emma Quay (Dial, 2011)
- *Spot's Toys*, by Eric Hill (Putnam, 2011)
- *Ten in the Bed*, by David Ellwand (Chronicle Books, 2002)

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
- "Bumping Up and Down in My Little Red Wagon" 🎧 8
- "Ring Around the Rosie" 🎧 39
- "Pop Goes the Weasel" 🎧 37
- 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

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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:

- “Here’s a Ball for Baby” (hand)
- “Can You Hop Like a Rabbit?” (action)
- “Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear” (action)

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:

Blowing Bubbles. Babies love bubbles! Provide purchased bubble solution, or make one (see Resources, pages 55–56). Have caregivers use slotted spoons, canning jar rings, or any other bubble wand, and blow bubbles for their child.

Soft Ball Drop. Provide many different types of small or lightweight balls, such as tennis, whiffle, and beach balls. You can also use socks; roll socks inside themselves to form a soft ball and use masking tape to tape the ball shut. Have babies and young toddlers toss the balls into a laundry or other basket, bucket, or large cooking pots. This simple activity provides lots of fun!

Parachute Play. Provide every two adults with a beach towel or other large bath towel. Provide small balls (tennis, whiffle, etc.) or beach balls. The two adults hold the towel and bounce the balls up and down. Young toddlers can place balls on the towels before the bouncing begins. If you have use of a parachute, you may also use that with several adults holding the edges. Again, bounce balls—or teddy bears! Babies can follow the movement of the objects with their eyes and will also enjoy the feeling of the motion of the air while the parachute is gently raised and lowered.

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.