

Sing a Song of Joy!

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** Read familiar song picture books numerous times. By rereading books, your child will soon recognize repeated words.
- **SHARE WORDS** Sing familiar nursery rhymes that have unusual words to help increase vocabulary—for example, “Sing a Song of Sixpence.”
- **SHARE RHYMES** Many nursery rhymes can be recited and also sung as songs. Say them first, and then sing them. An example is “Mary Had a Little Lamb.” The repetition will help your child learn words.
- **SHARE SONGS** In songs, there is a different musical note for each syllable in a word, so singing songs helps your child hear the different sounds that make up words (called phonological awareness), a skill necessary for learning to read.
- **SHARE STORIES** Can you make up some new songs or stories? What other animals besides monkeys can be jumping on the bed?
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Act out songs with stuffed animals or other props. Dance with your child. Use kitchen items—spoons, pan lids, and mixing bowls—to make music.
- **SHARE WRITING** Provide crayons and colored pencils and different kinds of paper. Play music of different tempos, and encourage your child to color to the music.

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!

Color Song

(sung to the tune of “Someone’s in the Kitchen with Dinah”)

(*Hold up a sheet of the corresponding color of construction paper before each verse.*)

Red is the color of an apple to eat.
Red is the color of cherries, too.
Red is the color of strawberries.
I like red, don’t you?

Blue is the color of the big blue sky.
Blue is the color of baby things, too.
Blue is the color of my sister’s eyes.
I like blue, don’t you?

Yellow is the color of the great big sun.
Yellow is the color of lemonade, too.
Yellow is the color of a baby chick.
I like yellow, don’t you?

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Green is the color of the leaves on the trees.
Green is the color of green peas, too.
Green is the color of a watermelon.
I like green, don't you?

Orange is the color of oranges.
Orange is the color of carrots, too.
Orange is the color of a jack-o-lantern.
I like orange, don't you?

Purple is the color of a bunch of grapes.
Purple is the color of grape juice, too.
Purple is the color of a violet.
I like purple, don't you?

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Sing a Song of Sixpence

Sing a song of sixpence, a pocket full of rye,
(Bounce child on lap from side to side)
Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie,
When the pie was opened, the birds began to sing.
Wasn't that a dainty dish to set before the king?
(Lift child high)
(Repeat)

Five Green and Speckled Frogs

Five green and speckled frogs, *(Child holds up one hand)*
Sat on a speckled log,
Eating the most delicious bugs—Yum! Yum!
(Pretend to eat bugs)
One jumped into the pool, *(Move hand in a jumping motion)*
Where it was nice and cool,
Then there were four green speckled frogs.
(Child or adult holds up four fingers)

(Count down to:)
One green and speckled frog,
Sat on a speckled log,
Eating the most delicious bugs—Yum! Yum!
It jumped into the pool,
Where it was nice and cool.
Then there were no green speckled frogs!

Rhymes

Wearing Colors

If you are wearing red, red, red,
Touch your head. *(Children follow movements as given)*
If you are wearing brown, brown, brown,
Touch the ground.
If you are wearing green, green, green,
Wave to be seen.

If you are wearing blue, blue, blue,
Touch your shoe.
If you are wearing black, black black,
Touch your back.
If you are wearing yellow, yellow, yellow,
Shake like JELL-O®.
If you are wearing pink, pink, pink,
Make your eyes blink.
If you are wearing white, white, white,
Then you're all right!

Thelma Thumb

(Move thumb as directed)

Thelma Thumb is up, and Thelma Thumb is down.
Thelma Thumb is dancing all around the town.
Dance her on your shoulders, dance her on your head.
Dance her on your knees,
and tuck her into bed! *(Tuck thumb in fist)*

Five Little Froggies

Five little froggies sitting on a well,
One looked up *(Point up)*
And down he fell. *(Fall down)*
Froggies jump high, *(Reach up high)*
Froggies jump low, *(Reach down low)*
Froggies jump everywhere, to and fro!
(Swing both hands back and forth)

(Count down to:)

One little froggy sitting on a well,
He looked up *(Point up)*
And down he fell. *(Fall down)*
Froggies jump high, *(Reach up high)*
Froggies jump low, *(Reach down low)*
Froggies jump everywhere, to and fro!
(Swing both hands back and forth)
Now there's no little froggies sitting on a well!

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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