

# Some Fly, Some Swim

## 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** Remember to share informational or nonfiction books with your child, because they can provide new vocabulary. If the text is too long, read just the parts you'd like, or make up stories to go with the photos or illustrations. This week you might ask your librarian for books about birds and fish.
- 2. SHARE SOUNDS** Talk about the special sounds that birds make. Take a nature walk, and point out (and try to imitate) different bird sounds when you hear them. Talk about sounds that other animals make, too.
- 3. SHARE WORDS** While you share words this week, introduce words about birds and fish. Look at books, take a walk, or visit the zoo or the aquarium or the park, and use words such as wing, chirp, tail, fin, swim, fly, and feathers. Introduce specific names of birds and fish, too, such as robin, sparrow, swan, goldfish, trout, flamingo, and whale.
- 4. SHARE RHYMES** Go on a nature walk and point out objects, naming them. Then say a word that rhymes, or make up a rhyming phrase. For example: tree, knee; fish, dish; I see a puppy, swim like a guppy.
- 5. SHARE SONGS** Play CDs with your child and sing along! Don't rely only on recordings for your child to enjoy music, though. Singing songs with your own voice is better, because you can sing slowly and emphasize the syllables of the words. For extra fun, pretend with your child to be singing birds.
- 6. SHARE STORIES** Make up stories about birds you see as you are driving or working or playing in the yard. Use bath toys to make up stories about fish. A bar of soap makes a great fish, especially when there is a story that goes with it. Your baby can also be the fish in your story.
- 7. SHARE PLAYTIME** Hold your baby in such a way that she can fly like a bird or swim like a fish when you move her. You and your young toddler can pretend to be birds and fly outside, or you can both move like a fish—either on land or in a pool.

# Songs and Rhymes for Some Fly, Some Swim

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*)

### Some Fly, Some Swim, Some Hop

(sung to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus")

The birds in the trees all chirp and sing, (*Tap fingers in chirping motion*)  
Chirp and sing, chirp and sing.  
The birds in the trees all chirp and sing,  
All day long.

#### Additional Verses

The fish in the lake go swish, swish, swish...  
(*Make swishing motion with hands*)  
The frogs in the pond go hop, hop, hop...  
(*Hop baby on lap; toddlers hop up and down*)

### Three Little Fishies

Down in the meadow in a little bitty pool,  
(*Create circle with arms to make a pool*)  
Swam three little fishies and a mama fishie too. (*Swim arms*)  
"Swim," said the mama fishie, "swim if you can,"  
And they swam and they swam all over the dam.  
Boop boop dittum dattum wattum choo, (*Clap hands*)  
Boop boop dittum dattum wattum choo, (*Slap thighs*)  
Boop boop dittum dattum wattum choo, (*Clap hands*)  
And they swam and they swam right over the dam. (*Swim arms*)

"Stop!" cried the mama fish, "or you'll get lost!"  
(*Hold up palm to say "stop"*)  
But the three little fishies didn't want to be bossed.  
(*Shake head to say "no"*)  
So they swam and they swam, it was all a lark, (*Swim arms*)  
Till all of a sudden they saw a shark! (*Be very still*)

"Whoa!" cried the fishies. "Let's go with the whales."  
(*Bend elbows and hold hands up*)  
Quick as they could, they turned on their tails,  
(*Turn around one-half circle*)  
Back to the pool in the meadow they swam, (*Swim arms*)  
And they swam and they swam back over the dam.  
Boop boop dittum dattum wattum choo, (*Clap hands*)  
Boop boop dittum dattum wattum choo, (*Slap thighs*)  
Boop boop dittum dattum wattum choo, (*Clap hands*)  
And they swam and they swam back over the dam. (*Swim arms*)

### Two Little Blackbirds

(sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill, (*Hold fists with thumbs up*)  
One named Jack (*Wiggle one thumb*)  
And one named Jill. (*Wiggle other thumb*)  
Fly away, Jack, (*Put one fist behind back*)  
Fly away, Jill. (*Put other fist behind back*)  
Come back, Jack, (*Bring first fist back*)  
Come back, Jill. (*Bring second fist back*)  
Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill, (*Hold fists with thumbs up*)  
One named Jack (*Wiggle one thumb*)  
And one named Jill. (*Wiggle other thumb*)

### The More We Get Together

The more we get together, (*Sway child from side to side*)  
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

### Five Little Robins

Five little robins lived in a tree, (*Hold up one of child's hands*)  
Father, Mother, (*Point to thumb, then point to pinkie*)  
And babies three. (*Point to three middle fingers, one at a time*)  
Father caught a worm, (*Make a catching motion with one hand*)  
Mother caught a bug, (*Make a catching motion with other hand*)  
But three little babies  
Said, "Ugh, Ugh, Ugh!" (*Point to three middle fingers, one at a time*)

### A Fish Story

One, two, three, four, five,  
(*Hold up one of child's hands; point to each finger one by one*)  
I caught a fish alive. (*Make catching motion with one hand*)  
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten,  
(*Hold up child's other hand; point to each finger one by one*)  
I let him go again. (*Motion hand letting go*)  
Why did you let him go?  
Because he bit my finger so! (*Biting motion with fingers against thumb*)  
Which finger did he bite?  
The little finger on the right. (*Point to little finger on right hand*)

### Birdie, Birdie, Where Is Your Nest?

Birdie, birdie, where is your nest? (*Put hand over eyes as if searching*)  
Birdie, birdie, where is your nest? (*Put fists over eyes to make binoculars*)  
Birdie, birdie, where is your nest? (*Put hands out as if asking "where?"*)  
In the tree that I love best. (*Cross arms across chest and hug self*)