

Some Fly, Some Swim

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

Up in the sky and under the water, animals are everywhere! In this storytime, babies and young toddlers are introduced to birds and fish, two richly varied groups of animals that are found in nature—and in many story and informational books. Today children will learn about swimming and flying creatures and explore their fascinating movements.

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:

- *A Good Day*, by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow, 2007)
- *A Nest in Springtime*, by Belle Yang (Candlewick, 2012)
- *Bring on the Birds*, by Susan Stockdale (Peachtree, 2011)
- *Duckie's Splash*, by Frances Barry (Candlewick, 2004)
- *Fabulous Fishes*, by Susan Stockdale (Peachtree, 2008)
- *Fish, Swish! Splash, Dash!* by Suse MacDonald (Little Simon, 2007)
- *Flip, Flap, Fly!* by Phyllis Root (Candlewick, 2011)
- *Harry Bear and Friends Count Fish*, by Elliot Krelloff (Blue Apple, 2011)
- *Hooray for Fish!* by Lucy Cousins (Candlewick, 2008)
- *In My Nest*, by Sara Gillingham and Lorena Siminovich (Chronicle Books, 2009)
- *In My Pond*, by Sara Gillingham and Lorena Siminovich (Chronicle Books, 2009)

- *One Blue Fish*, by Charles Reasoner (Little Simon, 2010)
- *The Tiny Tadpole*, by Judith Nichols (Scholastic, 2007)
- *Splish Splash!* by Amy Schimler (Little Simon, 2011)
- *That's Not My Frog... Its Tummy Is Too Squashy*, by Fiona Watt (Usborne, 2009)
- *Who's Hiding? In the Pond*, by Christiane Gunzi (Barron's Educational, 2011)

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
- "Some Fly, Some Swim, Some Hop" (sung to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus") 🎧 45
- "Three Little Fishies"
To hear a fuller version of this song, listen to it on *Bathtime Magic*, by Joanie Bartels (BMG, 2003). 🎧 48
- "Two Little Blackbirds" (sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star") 🎧 51
- 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

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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:

- "Five Little Robins" (finger/hand)
- "A Fish Story" (finger/hand)
- "Birdie, Birdie, Where Is Your Nest?" (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:

Musical Flight. Give young toddlers and caregivers of infants two paper or plastic plates to use as wings. Play classical music, and invite toddlers and caregivers to fly like birds to the beat of the music. Suggest that caregivers of young infants place babies in a protected place on the floor; stand up, and gently move their "wings" so that babies can feel the breeze. Older infants may want to hold one plate while the caregiver holds the other; they can fly and flap their "wings" together.

Fish Art. Provide families with brightly colored fish cut out of construction paper or fish stickers, and a circle shape of contact paper (size depends on the size of your fish). As the caregiver slowly peels off the backing of the contact paper, the fish can be arranged on the contact paper. Then give each family a circle shape of blue cellophane (available at craft stores) to cover over the fish and the contact paper. Families now have a fish bowl to take home!

Fly the Bird, Hide the Bird. Provide a collection of birds cut from several bright colors of construction paper (use a pattern or die-cut machine). Punch a hole in each bird before handing them out. Young toddlers can choose the color they want. Adults tie a short (no more than 12 inches) ribbon or string on the bird so that it "flies." Caregivers and children gently swoop up and down together to "fly" the bird. Adults can then hide the bird (under their leg, thigh, arm, carpet mat, etc.), and the child can help find it. For babies, adults may wish to swing the bird in various ways to fascinate the baby and help develop his vision.

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.