

Sun and Sea

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** When sharing books with your child, point to words from time to time, and let your child help turn the pages.
- **SHARE WORDS** Provide experiences for your child that will introduce new words. If you cannot go to a beach, show pictures in books and talk about some unique sea creatures, such as clown fish, dolphins, porpoises, whales, crabs, lobsters, octopuses, swordfish, and sea horses.
- **SHARE RHYMES** Have your child clap along with rhymes, one clap for each syllable, to help him understand the smaller sounds in words.
- **SHARE SONGS** Singing familiar songs over and over again helps your young child learn the words and builds memory skills.
- **SHARE STORIES** Fold copy paper in half and staple to make a homemade book for your child. Invite your child to dictate a story about a trip to the beach.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** You do not need to go to the beach to play in the sand with your child! Fill a sandbox or wading pool with sand, and provide kitchen utensils, small pans, and buckets. Have your child describe what she is making in the sand.
- **SHARE WRITING** Trace letters in the sand (or in a tray of salt), and identify the letters. Help your child make the first letter of his name.

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!

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Row, row, row your boat,
(*Make rowing motions with arms*)
Gently down the stream,
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Life is but a dream.

Sail, sail, sail your boat,
(*Hold palms together overhead to make a sail*)
On the ocean blue.
(*Move your hands as if sail is moving*)
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Life's a dream for you.

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

Swimming in the Sea

(sung to the tune of “Bumping Up and Down in My Little Red Wagon”)

Swimming in the sea with my little blue floatie,
(*Pretend to swim*)

Swimming in the sea with my little blue floatie,
Swimming in the sea with my little blue floatie,
Won’t you swim with me?

Splashing in the sea with my little blue floatie,
(*Pretend to splash*)

Splashing in the sea with my little blue floatie,
Splashing in the sea with my little blue floatie,
Won’t you splash with me?

Additional Verses

Floating in the sea on my little blue floatie,
(*Pretend to float on back*)

Sunning in the sea on my little blue floatie,
(*Pretend to be sunning self*)

Did You Ever See?

(sung to the tune of “The More We Get Together”)

Did you ever see a clown fish,
A clown fish, a clown fish,
Did you ever see a clown fish
Swim this way and that?

(*Move hands like fish swimming*)
Swim this way and that way,
And this way and that way,
Did you ever see a clown fish
Swim this way and that?

Did you ever see a crab,
A crab, a crab,
Did you ever see a crab
Move this way and that?
(*Hold hands with fingers pointing down and move fingers*)

Move this way and that way,
And this way and that way,
Did you ever see a crab
Move this way and that?

Did you ever see a dolphin,
A dolphin, a dolphin,
Did you ever see a dolphin
Leap this way and that? (*Move hands in a leaping motion OR have children jump*)
Leap this way and that way,
And this way and that way,
Did you ever see a dolphin
Leap this way and that?

Rhymes

Sand Castles

I dug and dug into the sand, (*Pretend to dig*)
And made a castle oh so grand.
(*Hold up both hands to show large size*)
But when the ocean waves came splashing,
(*Move hands fast to show waves splashing*)
My castle in the sand went crashing! (*Clap loudly*)
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Ocean Gifts

I found a great big shell one day, upon the ocean floor.
(*Cup both hands as if holding a shell*)
I held it close up to my ear—I heard the ocean roar.
(*Raise a hand to ear as if listening*)
I found a tiny little shell one day, upon the ocean sand.
(*Cup one hand as if holding a shell*)
The waves had worn it smooth—it felt nice in my hand.
(*Rub fingers over an imaginary shell*)
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Five Little Fishes

Five little fishes swimming in the sea,
The first one said, “Let’s be free!”
(*Child holds up one hand and adult points to each finger*)
The second one said, “This sea is deep.”
The third one said, “I’d like to sleep.”
The fourth one said, “Let’s float and dip.”
The fifth one said, “I see a ship.”
A fishing boat comes.
The line goes splash.
(*Pretend to hold a fishing rod and throw in line*)
All the little fishes
Swim away in a flash! (*Move one hand to swim like a fish*)

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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