

Water Critters

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

Unless children have been to a zoo or an ocean, they might not have seen many of the animals featured in this storytime. This can be an introduction to unfamiliar animals. All three books selected for this storytime also display main characters that could be considered bullies. If desired, highlight a description of bullying, and ask the children if they think the lead characters should have acted differently.

Books

For books to share in this storytime, pick three from the list below, or choose other books in your collection that reflect the theme and are developmentally appropriate for fours and fives. Always share your longest book first. For your second, try to choose a participatory book that engages the children and ask the caregivers to join in. 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.

Book Suggestions:

- *A House for Hermit Crab*, by Eric Carle (Simon & Schuster, 1991)
- *Baby Beluga*, by Raffi (Crown, 1992)
- *Blue Sea*, by Robert Kalan (Greenwillow, 1992)
- *Crocodile Beat*, by Gail Jorgensen (Rigby, 1988)
- *Five Little Monkeys Sitting in a Tree*, by Eileen Christelow (HMH, 1993)
- *Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator!* by Mo Willems (Balzer + Bray, 2011)
- *I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean*, by Kevin Sherry (Dial, 2007)
- *Solomon Crocodile*, by Catherine Rayner (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011)
- *Swimmy*, by Leo Lionni (Knopf, 1963)
- *The Rainbow Fish*, by Marcus Pfister (NorthSouth Books, 1992)
- *The Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark*, by Ken Geist (Cartwheel, 2007)

Songs

This storytime includes five songs. The same opening song and closing song should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. Always provide some type of movement or motions to accompany each song. Using recorded music during the storytime is fine, but try to sing some songs with a live voice so that children can hear the words and the sounds making up each word. The Very Ready Reading Program includes CDs with all the songs in the storytimes, recorded at an appropriate tempo for this age group. Track numbers for each recording are provided in the songlist below and on the storytime program card.

Songs for This Storytime:

- Opening Song: "Moving Hands" (sung to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell") 🎧 2.08 🎵 2.09
- "Crocodile Song" 🎧 1.11
- "Shark Song" 🎧 2.17
- "Three Little Fish" (sung to the tune of "Three Blind Mice") 🎧 2.23
- Closing Song: "Library Storytime Song" (sung to the tune of "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad") 🎧 2.01 🎵 2.02

Alternate Songs:

- "Three Little Fishies" by Bartels, Joanie. *Bathtime Magic*. BMG, 2003.
- "Three Little Fishies" by Maria Muldaur, *Swingin' in the Rain*. Music for Little People, 1998.
- "Three Little Fishies" by Various Artists, *A Child's Celebration of Silliest Songs*. Music for Little People, 1999.
- "Friends in the Water" by The Learning Station, *Sift and Splash*. Hug-A-Chug Records, 1999.
- "Finger Fish" by The Learning Station, *Sift and Splash*. Hug-A-Chug Records, 1999.
- "Baby Fish" by Dr. Jean, *Dr. Jean Sings Silly Songs*. 2007.
- "Five Little Fishes" by Dr. Jean, *Dr. Jean Sings Silly Songs*. 2007.
- "Oceans Clean and Blue" by Dr. Jean, *Going Green*. Music Design, 2009.
- "Baby Shark" by Stephen Fite, *Dive into a Learning Adventure*. Music Design, 2010.

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Rhymes

This storytime includes three rhymes. The rhymes used in these storytimes have motions that are appropriate for fours and fives with developing fine motor skills.

Rhymes for This Storytime:

- “Crocodile”
- “Five Little Fishes”
- “Five Dancing Dolphins”

Activities

This storytime includes an optional theme-related activity, to be completed after the closing song. Below are three to choose from. 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 attention spans and fine motor abilities of fours and fives 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:

Moving in the Ocean. Have the children swim like fish, walk like crabs, dive like whales, float along like sharks, move their arms like octopuses, and so on to music.

Starfish. Teach the children the rhyme “Starfish”: *Starfish, starfish under the sea / Starfish, starfish, grant this wish to me.* Download the starfish template from www.upstartpromotions.com/upstart/pages/reproducibles, and reproduce several on card stock. Cut out and have children use them as a template to trace a starfish onto card stock. Children can then dictate a wish for an adult to transcribe onto their starfish. 

Colorful Fish. Download and cut out a fish shape from poster board for each child from www.upstartpromotions.com/upstart/pages/reproducibles. Provide tissue paper and invite children to glue pieces onto the fish to make a colorful fish like *Swimmy* or *The Rainbow Fish*. Or provide large, colorful sequins, and invite children to glue them on the fish for scales. 

Early Literacy Tips

Throughout each storytime program, you’ll find yellow boxes that feature early literacy tips. As you present your program, share these tips with parents and caregivers to help promote the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles. The tips are designed to easily be infused into the storytime without interrupting the natural flow of the program for children. The Caregiver Tip Sheets you will hand out at the end of each program reiterate the literacy tips you shared during the storytime.