

Zoo Day

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

It is no secret that twos and threes love animals! But often children don't see many animals except for dogs and cats, and an occasional hamster or fish. Zoos are great places to take young children. Child development experts recommend talking to children about the zoo and zoo animals beforehand so that they will enjoy the visit more. What better way to help introduce children to unique animals than by sharing books, rhymes, and songs!

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 twos and threes. Always share your longest book first. For the second book, 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:

- *ABC ZooBorns!* by Andrew Bleiman and Chris Eastland (Beach Lane, 2012)
- *Color Zoo*, by Lois Ehlert (HarperCollins, 1989)
- *Curious George Visits the Zoo*, by Margaret and H.A. Rey (Houghton Mifflin, 1985)
- *Dear Zoo*, by Rod Campbell (Little Simon, 1986)
- *Good Night, Gorilla*, by Peggy Rathmann (Putnam, 1994)
- *Never Ever, Shout in a Zoo*, by Karma Wilson (Little, Brown, 2004)
- *1, 2 at the Zoo*, by Sue DiCicco (Scholastic, 2012)
- *Peek-a-Zoo!* by Marie Torres Cimarusti (Dutton, 2003)
- *Simms Taback's Safari Animals*, by Simms Taback (Blue Apple, 2008)
- *Two at the Zoo*, by Danna Smith (Clarion, 2009)

Songs

This storytime includes four songs. The same opening 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, but keep the movements simple. If you use a song that normally has many verses, consider limiting it to two or three verses. Using recorded music during the storytime is fine, but try to sing as many songs as you can with a live voice so that young children can hear the words and the sounds making up each word. Recorded music is usually sung too fast for this purpose. 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 song list below and on the storytime program card.

Songs for This Storytime:

- Opening Song: "It's Time for Storytime" (sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell") 🎧 2.03 🎵 2.04
- "We're Going to the Zoo" (sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell") 🎧 2.28
- "I Went to the Zoo Today" (sung to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush") 🎧 1.28
- "Down at the City Zoo" (sung to the tune of "Down by the Station") 🎧 1.19

Rhymes

This storytime includes four rhymes. The same closing rhyme should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. The rhymes used in these storytimes have motions that are appropriate for twos and threes, who still have some limited fine motor skills. Younger children may need caregivers' help with the motions in these rhymes.

Rhymes for This Storytime:

- "Five Silly Monkeys"
- "The Elephant"
- "Animal Actions"
- Closing Rhyme: "Wave Goodbye"

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Activities

This storytime includes an optional theme-related activity, to be completed after the closing rhyme. Below are three activities 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 twos and threes in mind. Always remember and remind caregivers: **Any activity that involves materials such as paint, sand, string, or small pieces requires close adult supervision.** Although each activity has a learning aspect, the emphasis should be on having fun!

Activity Suggestions:

Wild Animal Freeze. Play any fast-paced music. Ask children to pretend they are wild animals at the zoo and move to the music. Stop the music occasionally so that they “freeze.” You can use recorded freeze songs if you wish. An example is “The Freeze” on Greg & Steve’s *Kids in Motion* or their album *We All Live Together Volume 2*.

Spotted Giraffes. Print the giraffe pattern from www.upstartpromotions.com/upstart/pages/reproducibles on goldenrod paper for each child. Then give the children bingo daubers and have them add spots to their giraffe. 

Zoo Stick Puppets. Print the zoo animals from www.upstartpromotions.com/upstart/pages/reproducibles on card stock. Have parents cut out the puppets. Encourage children to color their puppets. Provide craft sticks and glue so that children can attach their puppets to a stick. Recommend to adults that when they practice the songs with their children during the week they have their child use the appropriate puppets with each song. 

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.