Storytime To Go

A Reading-Readiness Guide for Parents and Preschools

by Lexington Public Library
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A child’s first important accomplishment in school is learning how to read. Reading becomes the basis for all the learning that follows. In particular, schools emphasize reading on grade level by third grade because it has proven a predictor of future academic success—even a predictor of high school graduation and college attendance.

But half the years of a child’s life leading up to that crucial third-grade year are spent prior to school. Therefore, the preschool years are an important time for parents and caregivers to get children ready to read.

Fortunately, you already know the skills needed to teach reading readiness. They’re simple. What’s more, they’re fun, not just for children, but for you, too.

We’ve designed Storytime-to-go to help you tap into the skills you already have and focus them in a way that maximizes your ability to get your children ready to read. First, we’ll show you five essential practices for reading readiness. Then we’ll show you the elements of a good storytime. Finally, we’ll give you the tools you need to construct your own storytime around one of 26 themes, with suggestions for books, songs, fingerplays, and activities to choose from.

When you’re done, you’ll be able to construct storytimes that move children onward toward reading readiness while having fun at the same time. You also will know how to spot those “teachable moments” when a chance arises to engage children in the five essential practices.

Be sure to look for the watch , listen , and interact icons. These indicate video and audio available via www.lexpublib.org/storytime-to-go.

We suggest you use the notes feature of your e-reader to add your own ideas, whether it is to outline your specific storytime or to add your own favorite book, song, or activity to our suggestions. Making storytime your own by bringing your own ideas and enthusiasm is essential to your success as a reading-readiness machine.

Let’s get started!
Five Essential Things You Already Know

Parents talk to their babies as soon as they are born, even though babies can’t understand. Is this just the silly nonsense of new parents? No! This is reading readiness. That’s because even before children begin to read, they begin to understand words, and before they begin to understand words, they begin to recognize the sounds that make up words.

Talking is just one of the everyday practices essential to getting children ready to read. The Association for Library Service to Children and the Public Library Association, divisions of the American Library Association, have identified five essential practices for reading readiness:

- **Talking**
- **Singing**
- **Playing**
- **Writing**
- **Reading**

There you have it. Five things you already know how to do. Five things that are essential for reading readiness: talking, singing, playing, writing, and reading.

Let’s take a look at each of the five essential practices.
Children learn to talk before they learn to read. Talking and reading are essentially the same activity: using language to communicate and understand. Therefore all the talking skills learned even by very young children become important when learning to read. For example, a child who can sound out a word but doesn’t know the word’s meaning is only doing half the work of reading. However, if the child has used the word in conversation, then the written word will be understood once it is sounded out.

An important part of talking with children is listening. Adults should be sure not to dominate the conversation. Pay attention to what your children are saying. When it’s your turn to talk, use correct grammar, give complete answers, and look for ways to keep the conversation going. Don’t be afraid to introduce new words.

Shared reading, such as storytime or bedtime stories, obviously is a time for children to listen, but it also can be a time for them to talk.

A few tips:

- **Explain new words and meanings.**
  “The hen was delighted when she found the seeds.”
  She was very pleased and happy. When have you felt delighted?

- **Rephrase and expand on what children say.**
  Child: Me do that.
  Adult: Yes, you dig in the dirt. When you cover the seed with dirt and water it, the seed will grow.

- **Extend conversations.**
  The little red hen was disappointed her friends would not help her. How would that make you feel?

- **Make connections between the book and past and future events.**
  What kind of seeds should we plant? Who should we ask to help?

- **Have children tell you what is happening in the story.**

- **Throughout the day, look for spontaneous opportunities to talk to your children.** These can become memorable moments for you and powerful reading-readiness moments for them.
Singing

One important pre-reading skill is the ability to break down words into individual sounds. Singing is a fun, effective way to do this. Singing slows down language and generally gives one note for each syllable. Rhyming lyrics are easy to memorize. In a song, children can manage longer words they couldn’t manage in conversation. In short, singing enhances vocabulary, listening skills, and awareness of sounds within words. Most children love to sing. Many adults don’t. No need to worry. Children are a great audience. They will judge you more on your enthusiasm than your pitch.

A few tips:

- Clap along to rhythms to help children hear the syllables and practice their motor skills.
- Sing songs with rhyming words, silly words, and stretched out words. Sing them slow, fast, and over and over.
- For a little more attention from children, choose songs with accompanying fingerplays, like *The Itsy Bitsy Spider* or *I’m a Little Teapot*:

When you sing, be sure to sing with gusto. Children will respond to your enthusiasm.

- For a little more challenge, choose cumulative songs, like *

  *I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* ...

  or

  *The Cat Goes Fiddle-I-Fee* ...

  ... and see if children can remember what comes next.

- Put new words to familiar tunes. This allows you to create songs that introduce novel vocabulary in a setting that’s already known.

- Have recorded music readily available to your children. Their options shouldn’t all be children’s music. Expose them to a variety of musical styles. Draw on all the various sources for music, including the music collections at your public library, both in-house and online.

- Know of a perfect song to sing but can’t remember all the words, or have the words but don’t know the tune? Search for songs on YouTube. You’ll be amazed how many songs you’ll find there.

*I'm a Little Teapot*

*Itsy Bitsy Spider*
There is a strong connection in young children between physical agility and mental agility. An active child is a thinking child. Playing is one of the best ways for children to learn language and literacy skills.

Make-believe games help children think symbolically: a stick becomes a magic wand, today becomes a time when dinosaurs lived, a playmate becomes an astronaut. Children learn that one thing can stand for another, just like written words do.

Make-believe also gives children a chance to try out grown-up language, as they play store or veterinarian’s office. They develop narrative skills as they move their story from beginning to middle to end.

A few tips:

- When you want to teach young children something, it’s good to make it a game. For example, when you want to teach them colors, play I Spy: *I spy with my little eye, something that is blue.* They think you’re playing, you know they’re learning.

- When suggesting ideas for imaginative play, remember that mundane subjects can make for fascinating play. Wizards and princesses have their place, but many children will find flower shop, post office, and even house cleaning just as exciting.

- In addition to adult-directed play, make sure children have time and space for play on their own. This means a place with toys and games that will engage them.

- The most engaging toys are quite often inexpensive and rarely electronic. Help your children avoid the sensory overload and mental sloth of games that do the work for them, both mentally and physically. Don’t forget the simplicity and innate creativity of childhood; a cardboard box or a set of pots and pans can become a favorite toy.
Writing and reading go together. Both are ways to represent spoken words, to communicate information, and to tell stories. Therefore, writing supports reading, and reading supports writing.

Writing is an activity with two components: knowledge of letters and words plus dexterity with paper and pencil. Very young children can begin to work on their writing skills by building up their dexterity.

Even before babies learn to walk, they can grab, building up the muscles they’ll need for writing. A bit older, and finger plays like *Pat-a-Cake* and *Where Is Thumbkin?* can get them working their fingers. This develops dexterity.

Drawing, finger painting, tracing letters in the sand, using sidewalk chalk; all these activities will soon have them using their writing utensils like experts. Other activities that build dexterity for writing include cutting with scissors, placing beads or pasta on a string, playing with blocks, doing a jigsaw puzzle, lacing a shoestring through holes punched into a piece of cardboard, and pinching a spring-loaded clothespin.

**A few tips:**

- **Use unlined paper and don’t worry about straightness.**

- **A child’s first written word typically is that child’s name.** Use only the first name to start.

- **Print a word in large letters and have the child trace over your letters.**

- **Keep it fun.** There is plenty of time to learn, and children move at their own pace.

Young children feel a sense of accomplishment when they begin to write, but keep it light and fun. There’s plenty of time for them to learn.
Reading

Learning to read happens over time. First, children recognize letters and their associated sounds. Next they recognize short words and their own name. And then they’re ready for easy readers.

There are two elements to reading: decoding and understanding. Decoding is the ability to sound out a word. Understanding is knowing what the word means. Reading-readiness should prepare children for both elements.

A few tips:

- **Shared reading is the first step.** It can happen at any age and is the single most important activity you can do to help children get ready to read. Shared reading cultivates a love for books and introduces the logistics of reading, such as page turning from front to back and following letters from left to right.

- **The next standard-issue tool is the magnet letter.** Find a metal surface, a refrigerator at home or a desk at school or a baking sheet if you need something you can put away and take out, and fill it with magnetic letters.

- **Before taking on a whole book, children can pick out certain words.** For example, a book with a repeated phrase or sound-words like *boom* offers children an opportunity to begin recognizing words in a book. Road signs, food labels, menus, and recipes also are great for early reading.

- **Make books readily available. Have them everywhere.** For example, when you’re waiting in a line or at the doctor’s office, hand your child a book.

- **Be an example.** One key to childhood success in reading is the example of seeing adults reading for their own enjoyment. Always have a book for yourself to read, and let your children see you reading it.

- **Give your children “flashlight time” in bed, allowing them to look at books before they go to sleep.**

There you have it! The five essential practices for reading readiness. Bear them in mind as you construct your storytimes and consider activities for your children, and you’ll be a reading-readiness machine.
You Can Do a Great Storytime

Storytime is a planned activity. It typically is composed of a number of prepared elements: a welcome, books, activities, and a farewell.

You should know ahead of time your theme and the books and activities you want to include, and you should read your books and practice your songs ahead of time. On the other hand, you also need to leave room for spontaneity. Are your children squirmier than usual? Is a book you thought they’d love losing their attention? Be ready to adjust your storytime plan when necessary.

The length of a story time depends on the age and attention span of the children as well as the level of parental participation. The time might be only ten or fifteen minutes, shorter for the very young, longer for those with better attention spans.

Let’s take a look at each of the elements of storytime.
Welcome

The beginning of storytime is a time to set the tone and prepare your children. Having an opening song to sing at every storytime helps children get into storytime mode.

This also can be a time for a special song and some conversation that introduces the storytime’s theme. Most children love to talk, on topic or off, so ask questions that call for short answers and be ready to rein in the conversation.

OUR FAVORITE WELCOMES!

Clap Hello

Hello Everybody

Hello, My Friends

Hello

The More We Get Together

Books

When you select a book, you will want to consider more than the storytime theme. Choose books that are appropriate for the age you’re reading to. The younger your children, the shorter the books and the more basic the vocabulary. The better you know your audience, the better you’ll be able to gauge their interest in a particular book. When in doubt, use your own tastes as a guide. They’ll respond to the enthusiasm you have for a particular book.

Read the book ahead of time and know it well. You want to make eye contact with your children as much as possible and you want to hold the book with pages facing your audience so they can enjoy the pictures while you read the story.

There are lots of other great resources for book titles, songs, and activities for your story time.

For example, the Lexington Public Library has identified *50 Books to Read in Kindergarten*. To find this list of great picture books, plus reading-readiness suggestions for each title, visit the library’s website at [www.lexpublib.org](http://www.lexpublib.org). And when you’re done with *50 Books to Read in Kindergarten*, you’ll find a list of *50 MORE Books to Read in Kindergarten*. 
Activities

After a book, change the pace with an activity. This is a chance for children to get active and for you to reinforce your theme.

The best song choices are ones with accompanying movements. Fingerplays are rhymes—sometimes sung, sometimes spoken—that use hand movements, which helps engage children’s attention.

Flannel and magnetic boards with cut out figures that allow you to tell a story are a great way to tell a story visually and actively. Flannel figures on the board are moved around as the story unfolds.

Farewell

Like the welcome, a farewell can be a fixed song or activity or one that reinforces the theme. It is a chance to say goodbye and to stretch legs.

Planning all the elements and coming to storytime ready (and ready for anything!) will allow you to enjoy yourself and enjoy the enthusiasm children naturally put into just about whatever they do.

OUR FAVORITE FAREWELLS!

We Wave Goodbye
Like This

Now It’s Time
to Say Goodbye

Oh, It’s Time to Say Goodbye
to Our Friends
What to Do When Storytime Is Just Not Working

Sometimes storytimes break down. Children, even those who usually are little angels, sometimes can’t pay attention and can’t stop disrupting. Sometimes a whole group will have a bad day. That’s okay. Just remember a few rules:

**Refocus:** You can often refocus a group of children and get your storytime back on track. Begin by lowering your voice rather than raising it. This often causes children to quiet down in order to hear what you’re saying. You can also calm their breathing by having them hold up a finger, pretend it’s a flower and inhale to smell it, then pretend it’s a candle and have them blow it out. Have them do it several times in a row.

**Do The Hokey Pokey:** If children can’t settle down, you can make storytime loud and active. Have a fallback activity in mind so you can put the book down, have everyone stand up, and do something fun, like *The Hokey Pokey*.

**Keep it positive:** The power of storytime is not only what children learn. It also is the positive feeling it creates about reading. Always work to make storytime a positive experience, a time children associate with fun.

**Call it quits:** When you realize storytime just isn’t going to work today, cut it short. Do *The Hokey Pokey* (or whatever your fallback activity is) then say in your most cheerful voice, “That was great! I can’t wait until our next storytime!” Withhold punitive measures for those persistent problems.
Construct a Storytime

Use the following suggestions, clustered around various themes, to create your own storytime.
**BOOKS**

*Can’t You Sleep Little Bear?* by Martin Waddell  
*The Cow That Went Oink* by Bernard Most  
*Curious George* by H.A. Rey  
*Five Little Ducks* by Annie Kubler  
*Goodnight Gorilla* by Peggy Rathmann  
*I Went Walking* by Sue Williams  
*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*  
  by Laura Numeroff  
*Is Your Mama a Llama?* by Deborah Guarino  
*Nine Ducks Nine* by Sarah Hayes  
*One Duck Stuck: A Mucky Ducky Counting Book*  
  by Phyllis Root  
*Over in the Meadow: A Counting Rhyme*  
  by Louise Voce  
*Rosie’s Walk* by Pat Hutchins  
*Silly Sally* by Audrey Wood  
*Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon  
*Ten Little Mice* by Joyce Dunbar  
*The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear* by Don Wood  
*Time for Bed* by Mem Fox  
*Where Is the Green Sheep?* by Mem Fox  
*Who Took the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?*  
  by Bonnie Lass  
*Whoo? Whoo?* by David Carter  
*Whose Nest?* by Guy Troughton

**SONGS**

*I’m a Lion*  
*What Can a Monkey See From a Tree?*  
(Ask children what the monkey might see from the tree etc. and include.)  
*Who Are the Animals*  
(Ask children to call out animals.)  
*Did You Ever Hear an Elephant?*  
(Mimic movements.)  
*Pop Goes the Weasel*  
*Polar Bear* (Have children repeat each phrase and mimic movements called for.)

**CRAFTS**

*killer whale*  
*penguin*  
*shark*

**ACTIVITY**

*Animal Flash Cards:* Have children guess the name of animals as you hold up pictures one by one.

**FINGERPLAYS**

*An Elephant Goes Like This and That*  
*This is the Way the Elephant Goes*
BOOKS

I Am an Apple by Jean Marzollo
All for Pie, Pie for All by David Martin
Apple Pie ABC by Alison Murray
The Seasons of Arnold’s Apple Tree by Gail Gibbons
Ten Red Apples by Pat Hutchins
Apples and Pumpkins by Anne Rockwell
The Apple Pie That Papa Baked by Lauren Thompson
Apple Farmer Annie by Monica Wellington
Odd Dog by Claudia Boldt

SONGS

I’m a Little Apple
A-P-P-L-E
Apples, Apples

FINGERPLAYS

Five Little Apples
Here is an Apple
SONGS
Chubby Little Snowman
Polar Bear
Polar Bear, Polar Bear (Do the motions called for.)
Five Little Polar Bears
I Know a Little Penguin
Ten Little Penguins
The Penguin Song
Penguin

CRAFTS
killer whale
penguin

ACTIVITIES
Five Little Polar Bears: Place five polar bears on magnetic board. Remove them one at a time as you say the rhyme. Ice Fishing: Use magnetic fishing poles, construction-paper fish with attached paper clips, and a paper-covered cardboard box with a round hole. Animal Sorting: Hold up animal pictures and ask children if the animal is an arctic animal.

BOOKS
Baby Polar by Yannick Murphy
A Penguin Story by Antoinette Portis
Animal Babies in Polar Lands
I Am Small by Emma Dodd
Penguin and Pinecone by Salina Yoon
Hello, Arctic! by Theodore Taylor
Panda & Polar Bear by Matthew Baek
A Splendid Friend Indeed by Suzanne Bloom
Penguin on Vacation by Salina Yoon
Baby Beluga by Raffi
Cub's Big World by Sarah Thompson
BOOKS

Waking Up is Hard to Do by Neil Sedaka
Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney
Maybe a Bear Ate It by Michael Harris
Snoozers by Sandra Boynton
The Going to Bed Book by Sandra Boynton
Ten in the Bed by David Ellwand
Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Eileen Christelow
Five Little Monkeys Reading in Bed by Eileen Christelow
Bedtime Bugs by David Carter
Night Lights by Susan Gal
Piggies in Pajamas by Michelle Meadows
Mother, Mother, I Want Another by Maria Robbins
Let’s Sing a Lullaby With the Brave Cowboy by Jan Thomas
Hide & Squeak by Heather Frederick
Time for Bed by Mem Fox
Time for Bed, Fred! by Yasmeen Ismail
Sleepy, Oh So Sleepy by Denise Fleming
Little Quack’s Bedtime by Lauren Thompson
Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann
Moongame by Frank Asch
Is Your Mama a Llama? by Deborah Guarino
Can’t You Sleep Little Bear? by Martin Waddell
The Napping House by Audrey Wood

SONGS

Teddy Bear (Do the motions called for.)
Starlight
Bedtime (Do the motions called for.)
All Around the Barnyard

CRAFT

pajamas

ACTIVITY

Starlight: Give each child a star then have all recite the rhyme each time before individuals share their wishes.

FINGERPLAY

Little Boy Blue
**BOOKS**

*The Best Nest* by P.D. Eastman  
*Are You My Mother?* by P.D. Eastman  
*Feathers for Lunch* by Lois Ehlert  
*Peck, Peck, Peck* by Lucy Cousins  
*Except If* by Jim Averbeck  
*Birds* by Kevin Henkes  
*The Odd Egg* by Emily Gravett  
*Seven Hungry Babies* by Candace Fleming  
*The Chick and the Duckling* by Mirra Ginsburg  
*Whose Chick Are You?* by Nancy Tafuri  
*There Is a Bird On Your Head* by Mo Willems  
*How to Heal a Broken Wing* by Bob Graham  
*Roly-Poly Egg* by Kali Stileman  
*Round Robin* by Jack Kent  
*Nest* by Jorey Hurley  
*Night Owl* by Toni Yuly  
*You Can Do It, Bert!* by Ole Konnecke

**SONGS**

*Ten Little Robin Birds*  
*Feathered Birds*  
*I’m a Little Birdie*  
*Baby Robins* (Count on fingers with the rhyme.)

**CRAFTS**

*chicken*  
*penguin*  
*turkey*

**ACTIVITY**

*Name That Bird:* Ask children to identify the bird as you hold up bird pictures. Ask questions about the birds, such as whether or not a particular bird can fly.

**FINGERPLAYS**

*Two Little Blackbirds*  
*Up in the Sky*
BOOKS
The Very Lazy Ladybug by Isobel Finn & Jack Tickle
Gotcha! by Gail Jorgensen
Snow Bugs by David Carter
Caterpillar Spring, Butterfly Summer by Susan Hood
Ten Little Ladybugs by Melanie Gerth
The Very Lonely Firefly by Eric Carle
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
The Grouch Ladybug by Eric Carle
Waiting for Wings by Lois Ehlert
The Big Bug Book by David Carter
Big Bug, Little Bug: A Book of Opposites by Paul Strickland
Inch by Inch by Leo Lionni
In the Tall, Tall Grass by Denise Fleming
The Very Quiet Cricket by Eric Carle
The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle
Butterfly, Butterfly: A Book of Colors by Petr Horacek
How Many Bugs in a Box? by David Carter
The Honeybee and the Robber by Eric Carle
Good Night, Sweet Butterflies by Dawn Bentley
Snappy Little Bugs
The Itsy Bitsy Spider by Iza Trapani
Caterpillar’s Wish by Mary Murphy
I Love Bugs by Emma Dodd

SONGS
Bug Song
Do You Like to Buzz?
The Life of a Butterfly
If You’re an Insect
Bumblebee
Baby Bumblebee

FLANNEL BOARD STORIES
The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Five Hungry Ants

FINGERPLAY
Itsy-Bitsy Spider
BOOKS
Three Little Kittens by Paul Galdone
Cat by Matthew Van Fleet
Come Here, Cleo! by Caroline Mockford
My Dog, My Cat by Ashlee Fletcher
Kitten for a Day by Ezra Jack Keats
What Will Fat Cat Sit On? by Jan Thomas
Knitty Kitty by David Elliott
Where Is Tippy Toes? by Betsy Lewin
Cookie’s Week by Cindy Ward
Where to Sleep by Kandy Radzinski
Widget by Lyn Rossiter McFarland
Mama Cat Has Three Kittens by Denise Fleming
Kitty’s Cuddles by Jane Cabrera
The Fat Cat: A Danish Folktale by Jack Kent
Come Out and Play, Little Mouse by Robert Kraus
Mean Murgatroyd and the Ten Cats
    by Nathan Zimelman
Matilda’s Cat by Emily Gravett

SONGS
I’m a Little Kitten
If You’re a Cat and You Know It
I Know a Cat
Soft Kitty (Make fist and pet with other hand.)

ACTIVITIES
Copycat: Explain the word copycat, then clap a rhythm for the group to copycat, using claps, snaps, knee slaps, etc.

Cat Word Games: Have children think of cat names that start with C as well as words that rhyme with cat.

FLANNEL BOARD STORY
The Fat Cat
Christmas

BOOKS

What Am I? Christmas
Snappy Little Christmas
When Cows Come Home for Christmas by Dori Chaconas
How Do Dinosaurs Say Merry Christmas? by Jane Yolen
Bear Stays Up for Christmas by Karma Wilson
Maisy’s Snowy Christmas Eve by Lucy Cousins
Christmas for Ten by Cathryn Falwell
Claude the Dog: A Christmas Story by Dick Gackenbach
Llama Llama Holiday Drama by Anna Dewdney
I’m Not Santa by Jonathan Allen
Little Robin’s Christmas by Jan Fearnley

SONGS

Reindeer Pokey (Do the motions called for.)
Dance Like Snowflakes
We Wish You a Merry Christmas
Ring the Bells
Christmas Time Is Near

FLANNEL BOARD STORY

Little Robin’s Christmas

FINGERPLAYS

Santa Claus
Where Is Santa?
COLORS

BOOKS
- *I Went Walking* by Sue Williams
- *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh
- *Where is the Green Sheep?* by Mem Fox
- *Are Lemons Blue?*
- *Color Surprises: A Pop-Up Book*
- *Slide & Seek Colors*
- *Colors From Nature*
- *Spicy Hot Colors* by Sherry Shehan
- *Blue Chameleon* by Emily Gravett
- *Lunch* by Denise Fleming
- *Lemons Are Not Red* by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
- *What Does Bunny See?* by Linda Sue Park
- *Colors* by Xavier Deneux
- *The Deep Blue Sea: A Book of Colors* by Audrey Wood
- *Magic Colors*
- *Colors: A Bugs Pop-Up Concept Book* by David Carter
- *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert
- *Snappy Little Colors*

SONGS
- *Colors* (Change name and color for each child.)
- *Find the Color* (Have children say where they see a color.)
- *Green*
- *If Your Clothes Have Any Red*
- *Rainbow Song*
- *I Like Purple*
- *Oh Rainbow*

ACTIVITIES
- *Ice Cream Colors*: Have children choose the correct ice cream scoop on the cone while reciting this poem.
- *Two Little Paint Cans*: Recite the poem, put two colors in a bucket, and pull out the color they make.
Dinosaurs

BOOKS

Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs by Byron Barton
If the Dinosaurs Came Back by Bernard Most
Dinosaur Roar! by Paul & Henrietta Strickland
Catch Me If You Can! by Bernard Most
How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night? by Jane Yolen
I'm Big! by Kate & Jim Mcmullan
I'm Bad! by Kate & Jim McMullan
Except If by Jim Averbeck
Bones, Bones, Dinosaurs by Byron Barton
Simms Taback's Dinosaurs
Let's Look at Dinosaurs by Frances Barry
Shape by Shape by Suse MacDonald
Digger Dog by William Bee
Snappy Little Dinosaurs
Tyson the Terrible by Diane and Christyan Fox

SONGS

Dino Ditty, Ditty Dum Ditty Doo
Dinosaur Song
Five Dinosaurs (Hold up fingers and lower with rhyme.)
Five Baby Dinosaurs (Hold up fingers then rest head on hands and pretend to snore on the last lines.)

FLANNEL BOARD STORY

A Dinosaur Is Too Big

FINGERPLAY

Dinosaurs Were ...
BOOKS
A Dog’s Life by Caroline Sherman
The Doghouse by Jan Thomas
The Last Puppy by Frank Asch
Dog by Matthew Van Fleet
Domino by Claire Masurel
Dogs by Emily Gravett
Move Over Rover by Karen Beaumont
What Puppies Do Best by Laura Numeroff
A Dog Needs a Bone! by Audrey Wood
“Let’s Get a Pup!” Said Kate by Bob Graham
The Great Gracie Chase: Stop That Dog! by Cynthia Rylant
Larabee by Kevin Luthardt
Harry the Dirty Dog by Gene Zion
Where’s Spot? by Eric Hill
Spot’s First Walk by Eric Hill
I Want a Dog! by Helga Bansch
I Got Two Dogs by John Lithgow
Please, Puppy, Please by Spike Lee & Tonya Lee
Oh No, George by Chris Haughton
A Bag Full of Pups by Dick Gackenbach
What Can Spot See? by Eric Hill
Whistle for Willie by Ezra Jack Keats
What’s Claude Doing? by Dick Gackenbach
The Dog Who Cried Wolf by Keiko Kasza
Widget by Lynn Rossiter McFarland
Eli, No! by Katie Kirk
Bark, George by Jules Feiffer
Do Your Ears Hang Low? by Caroline Jane Church
Extraordinary Jane by Hannah Harrison
Snappy Sounds Woof!

SONGS
Ten Little Doggies
B-I-N-G-O
Puppy Care
Puppy Pokey
If You’re Happy
Oh Where Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone

CRAFT
Pet Food Match: Have children match pictures of pets with pictures of their favorite foods.

ACTIVITY
Digging in the Dirt
Puppy’s Doghouse

FINGERPLAYS
BOOKS

Baby Bear Counts One by Ashley Wolff
The Busy Little Squirrel by Nancy Tafuri
Mouse’s First Fall by Lauren Thompson
Nuts by Paula Gerritsen
Oliver Finds His Way by Phyllis Root
It’s Pumpkin Time by Zoe Hall
Every Autumn Comes the Bear by Jim Arnosky
Leaves by David Ezra Stein
Fall is Not Easy by Marty Kelley
It’s Harvest Time by Jean McElroy
Apple Harvest by Calvin Harris
Animals in Fall by Martha Rustad
Apples and Pumpkins by Anne Rockwell
Pumpkin Pumpkin by Jeanne Titherington
Sleepover With Beatrice and Bear by Monica Carnesi
Now It’s Fall by Lois Lenski
Caps, Hats, Socks and Mittens: A Book About the Four Seasons by Louise Borden

SONGS

Did You Ever See a Scarecrow?
The Leaves are Falling Down
Leaves are Falling
Little Leaves

ACTIVITY

Leaf Sorting: Make leaves with red, brown, yellow, and orange paper. Find different ways to challenge children to count and sort the leaves.

FINGERPLAY

Leaves
BOOKS
Farm Alphabet Book by Jane Miller
The Cow That Went Oink by Bernard Most
Five Little Ducks by Annie Kubler
Rosie’s Walk by Pat Hutchins
Nine Ducks Nine by Sarah Hayes
Minerva Louise by Janet Stoeke
Simms Taback’s Farm Animals
Who Took the Farmer’s Hat by Joan Nodset
Cluck Cluck Who’s There? by Caroline Jayne Church
Giant Pop-Out Farm
Who’s on the Farm? by Dorothea DePrisco
Old MacDonald Had a Farm by David Carter
Maisy at the Farm by Lucy Cousins
Rosie’s Walk by Pat Hutchins
Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin
Wow, It’s a Cow! by Trudy Harris
Moo by Matthew Van Fleet
Wee Little Chick by Lauren Thompson
The Cows Loves Cookies by Karma Wilson
Hogwash by Karma Wilson
Chicks Run Wild by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen
Do Cows Meow? by Salina Yoon
Six Little Chicks by Jez Alborough
Farmer John’s Tractor by Sally Sutton
Snappy Sounds Moo!
Do Cows Bark?
On the Farm

SONGS
Tractors, Tractors
Take Me Out to the Barnyard
If I Were a Farmer
The Animals on the Farm
Farmwork
Shovels, Rakes, and Even Hoes
To the Farm
This Little Cow (Hold up fingers, bend down one at a time.)
Baa Baa Black Sheep

ACTIVITY
Who’s in the Barn?: Hide farm animals and other things in colored barns and ask to find them using the phrase.

FLANNEL BOARD STORIES
Old MacDonald
Five Little Ducks
The Little Red Hen

FINGERPLAYS
Eat an Apple
Two Mother Pigs
Five Fat Peas
BOOKS

Don’t Forget the Bacon by Pat Hutchins
Eating the Alphabet by Lois Ehlert
Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff
Who Took the Cookies From the Cookie Jar? by Bonnie Lass and Philomena Sturges
Who Took the Cookie From the Cookie Jar? by David Carter
What’s for Lunch? by Ann Garrett and Gene-Michael Higney
How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food? by Jane Yolen
Rah, Rah, Radishes!: A Vegetable Chant by April Pulley Sayre
How Does a Seed Grow? by Sue Kim
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
No Peas for Nellie by Chris Demarest
We’re Going on a Picnic! by Pat Hutchins
Yummy YUCKY! by Leslie Patricelli
The Watermelon Seed by Greg Pizzoli
D.W. the Picky Eater by Marc Brown
The Little Red Hen by Jonathan Allen
Orange Pear Apple Bear by Emily Gravett
Pete’s a Pizza by William Steig
The Greedy Old Fat Man by Paul Galdone
Guess What? – Food by Yusuke Yonezu
The Surprise Garden by Zoe Hall
The Wolf’s Chicken Stew by Keiko Kasza
The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss
Avocado Baby by John Burningham
What’s in My Pocket? by David Carter
Lunch by Denise Fleming
Spot Bakes a Cake by Eric Hill
How Are You Peeling?: Foods With Moods by Saxton Freymann and Joost Eilers
Gregory, the Terrible Eater by Mitchell Sharmat
Animal Stew by Shen Roddie and Patrick Gallagher
What’s for Dinner? by Ann Garrett and Gene-Michael Higney
The Gingerbread Boy by Paul Galdone

SONGS

Be Kind to Your Carrots
Jelly on the Plate
Pease Porridge Hot
Veggies, Veggies
Five Little Peas

ACTIVITIES

Fruits and Vegetables: Ask children to identify various fruits and vegetables, either real or pictures.

Pizza: Take a survey of everyone’s favorite toppings and make a chart showing the results.

FLANNEL BOARD STORIES

The Carrot Seed
The Gingerbread Boy
There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly

FINGERPLAY

Doughnut
BOOKS
Big Frog Can’t Fit In by Mo Willems
The Wide-Mouthed Frog by Keith Faulkner
Let’s Clean Up by Peggy Anderson
In the Small, Small Pond by Denise Fleming
A Frog in the Bog by Karma Wilson
Jump, Frog, Jump by Robert Kalan
The Caterpillar and the Polliwog by Jack Kent
Baby Bird’s First Nest by Frank Asch
Ah Ha! by Jeff Mack
I Love to Eat Bugs! by John Strejan
Can You Make a Scary Face? by Jan Thomas

SONGS
Little Tadpole
Six Little Frogs

CRAFT
frog

ACTIVITY
Musical Lily Pads: Like musical chairs, with option to have fewer lily pads to jump on when the music stops, ending with all the froggies trying to stand on one lily pad.

FINGERPLAY
Five Green and Speckled Frogs
Halloween

**BOOKS**
- Boo Who?
- Mouse’s First Halloween by Lauren Thompson
- What’s in the Witch’s Kitchen by Nick Sharratt
- Big Pumpkin by Erica Silverman
- Scary, Scary Halloween by Eve Bunting
- Halloween Surprise by Corinne Demas
- Pumpkin Trouble by Jan Thomas
- Halloween Bugs by David Carter
- Froggy’s Halloween by Jonathan London
- Who Said Boo? by Phyllis Root
- Halloween Lift-the-Flap Shadow Book
- The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything by Linda Williams
- The Hallo-Wiener by Dav Pilkey
- What Am I? Halloween by Anne Lewis
- Snappy Little Halloween
- Boo Bunny! by Kathryn O. Galbraith
- At the Old Haunted House by Helen Ketteman

**SONGS**
- Little Witch
- Trick or Treat
- This Old Ghost
- Halloween Flight
- Ghosts and Goblins
- It’s Halloween
- Horns and Fangs (Point to each part mentioned.)

**FINGERPLAYS**
- Five Little Pumpkins
- Count the Pumpkins
BOOKS

*Curious George* by H.A. Rey

*Hippospotamus* by Jeanne Willis

*Giant Pop-Out Safari*

*Just the Thing* by Damian Harvey

*If You’re Happy & You Know It: Jungle Edition*  
  by James Warhola

*Tiny Little Fly* by Michael Rosen

*Hide & Seek in the Jungle*

*Splash* by Flora McDonnell

*Simms Taback’s Safari Animals*

*Guess Who? Safari Friends*

*Do Crocs Kiss?* by Salina Yoon

*Charlie and the Banana Monster*  
  by Peter Bently

*Look Out, Cub!* by Peter Bently

*Tall* by Jez Alborough

SONGS

*Big Gray Elephant*

*Did You Ever Hear an Elephant?*

*I’m a Lion*

*The Animals in the Jungle*

*Down in the Jungle Chant*

*Monkey See, Monkey Do* (Have children do motions.)

*I Went to the Jungle One Day*

*Monkeys Swinging*

ACTIVITY

*Name That Animal:* Show animal pictures. Have children name them and talk about where they live.

FINGERPLAY

*Elephant Action Play*
BOOKS

*Nighty Night, Little Green Monster* by Ed Emberley
*Go Away Big Green Monster* by Ed Emberley
*If You're a Monster and You Know It* by Rebecca Emberley
*There Was an Old Monster* by Rebecca Emberley
*Even Monsters* by A.J. Smith
*Little Puppy and the Big Green Monster* by Mike Wohnoutka
*Peek-A-Boo Monsters* by Charles Reasoner
*Don't Play With Your Food!* by Bob Shea
*Leonardo the Terrible Monster* by Mo Willems
*Goodnight, Little Monster* by Helen Ketteman
*My Monster Mama Loves Me So* by Laura Leuck
*Some Monsters Are Different* by David Milgrim
*The Baby That Roared* by Simon Puttock
*Monster Be Good* by Natalie Marshall
*Glad Monster, Sad Monster* by Ed Emberley
*Bye-Bye, Big Bad Bullybug* by Ed Emberley
*The Judge* by Margot Zemach
*Five Ugly Monsters* by Tedd Arnold

SONGS

*You Are My Monster*
*If You're a Monster and You Know It*
*Five Little Monsters Sleeping in My Bed*
*If You Ever See a Monster*
*Monster Monster*
*Sleepy Monsters* (Count on fingers then fold down to palm.)

CRAFT

*monster*

FLANNEL BOARD STORY

*Go Away Big Green Monster*

FINGERPLAYS

*I'm Not a Monster*
*Monsters Galore*
*If I Were a Monster*
BOOKS

Yellow Umbrella by Jae Soo Liu
Lizard’s Song by George Shannon
Dance Away by George Shannon
Three Blind Mice by John Ivimey, illustrated by Paul Galdone
Sing by Joe Raposo
Skip to My Lou by Mary Ann Hoberman
Hiccupotamus by Steve Smallman
What a Wonderful World by Bob Thiele
Mole Music by David McPhail
Lisa Loeb’s Songs for Movin’ & Shakin’ by Lisa Loeb
Over in the Meadow by Jane Cabrera
Snappy Sounds Rock & Roll

SONGS

Toss Your Scarves (with scarves)
If You’re Happy and You Know It (with scarves)
Tap, Tap, Tap Your Sticks (with rhythm sticks)
Town Musicians (while marching)
Let’s All Tap Our Sticks (with rhythm sticks)
**BOOKS**

*Five Little Ducks* by Annie Kubler  
*Mouse Count* by Ellen Stoll Walsh  
*Nine Ducks Nine* by Sarah Hayes  
*One Duck Stuck: A Mucky Ducky Counting Book* by Phyllis Root  
*One Is a Snail, Ten Is a Crab: A Counting by Feet Book* by April Pulley Sayre  
*Over in the Meadow: A Counting Rhyme* by Louise Voce  
*Ten Little Mice* by Joyce Dunbar  
*The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins  
*One Yellow Lion* by Matthew Van Fleet  
*One Blue Fish* by Charles Reasoner  
*Counting* by David Carter  
*Count!* by Denise Fleming  
*Doggone Dogs* by Karen Beaumont  
*Russell the Sheep* by Rob Scotton  
*Feast for Ten* by Cathryn Falwell  
*The Completed Hickory Dickory Dock* by Jim Aylesworth  
*Big Fat Hen* by Keith Baker  
*Little Quack* by Lauren Thompson  
*One Two That’s My Shoe* by Alison Murray  
*One to Ten ... and Back Again*  
*Ten Dirty Pigs: An Upside-Down, Turn-Around Bathtime Counting Book* by Carol Roth  
*Ten Little Apples*

**SONGS**

*The Finger Song*  
*One-Two-Three*  
*One Two Tie My Shoe*  
*Ten in the Bed*  
*Two Little Hands*

**FINGERPLAY**

*Here Is a Beehive*
**BOOKS**

- *Sally and the Limpet* by Simon James
- *Harry by the Sea* by Gene Zion
- *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni
- *Beach Bugs* by David A. Carter
- *At the Beach* by Anne & Harlow Rockwell
- *This Is Not My Hat* by Jon Klassen
- *I Spy Under the Sea* by Edward Gibbs
- *I'm a Shark* by Bob Shea
- *D.W. All Wet* by Marc Brown
- *Sea, Sand, Me* by Patricia Hubbell
- *Hooray for Fish* by Lucy Cousins
- *Pout-Pout Fish* by Deborah Diesen
- *What's in the Deep Blue Sea?* by David A. Carter
- *Ten Little Fish* by Audrey & Don Wood
- *Somewhere in the Ocean* by Jennifer Ward & T.J. Marsh
- *Down by the Bay* by Raffi and Nadine Bernard Westcott
- *The World Around Me: Oceans* by Julie Aigner-Clark
- *Hide & Seek in the Ocean* by Dawn Apperley
- *The Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark* by Ken Geist
- *Ocean Counting* by Janet Lawler
- *A House for Hermit Crab* by Eric Carle
- *Moving Day* by Robert Kalan
- *Kipper's Sunny Day* by Mick Inkpen
- *One Is a Snail, Ten Is a Crab* by April Pulley Sayre
- *My River: Oceans*

**SONGS**

- *Down by the Bay*
- *My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean* (Have children stand or raise hands every time they hear a word that starts with the letter B, then sit or lower hands the next time they hear such a word, and so on through the whole song.)
- *Waves at the Beach*
- *Sand*
- *I'm a Fish*

**CRAFTS**

- *killer whale*
- *shark*

**ACTIVITIES**

- *Fishing*: Use magnetic fishing poles, construction-paper fish with attached paper clips.
- *Octopus, Octopus, What Do You See?* Show pictures of sea animals using the same pattern as *Eric Carle's Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*

**FINGERPLAY**

- *One, Two, Three, Four, Five*
BOOKS
Opposites by Deneux
Is It Big or Is It Little? by Claudia Rueda
What's What? by Mary Serfozo
Opposnakes by Salina Yoon
Circus Opposites by Suse MacDonald
Up & Down by David Carter
Opposites by David Carter
Quiet LOUD by Leslie Patricelli
BIG Little by Leslie Petricelli
Monster Opposites by Ed Heck
Olivia's Opposites by Ian Falconer
The Hare and the Tortoise by Paul Galdone
Good News Bad News by Jeff Mack
Big Is Big (and Little, Little): A Book of Contrasts by J. Patrick Lewis
Moustache Up! by Kimberly Ainsworth
Dot by Patricia Intriago
Moving Day by Robert Kalan
Animal Opposites by Petr Horacek
Are Elephants Tiny?
I Say, You Say Opposites! by Tad Carpenter
Magic Opposites
Where Is the Green Sheep? by Mem Fox
Silly Sally by Audrey Wood
Stellaluna by Janell Cannon

SONGS
Wiggle Them
Clap Your Hands
Ten Little Fingers (Do motions called for.)
Roll Your Hands (Do motions called for.)

ACTIVITIES
The King Commands: Give orders that are opposites (lean left/lean right, step backward/step forward etc.)
Day/Night: Draw line down center of magnetic board. Label one Day and the other Night. Have pictures children can put on the appropriate side and discuss why.
Hot Weather/Cold Weather: Same as Day/Night.

FINGERPLAY
Grand Old Duke of York
BOOKS

Lots of Dots by Craig Frazier
Shape by Shape by Suse MacDonald
Mouse Shapes by Ellen Stoll Walsh
Color Zoo by Lois Ehlert
Color Farm by Lois Ehlert
It Looked Like Spilt Milk by Charles Shaw
Shapes in the Kitchen by Tracey Steffora
Fuzzy Yellow Ducklings by Matthew Van Fleet
Are Eggs Square?
Shapes in Food by Oona Gaarder-Juntti

ACTIVITIES

I Have a Shape: Give a variety of shapes to children and sing the song so they can hold up shape accordingly.
Blowing a Huge Bubble: Have the children join hands and form a small circle. Pretend to chew gum then blow a bubble. Have children bring circle out as far as possible then let go hands and fall for the pop.
BOOKS

Caps, Hats, Socks and Mittens: A Book About the Four Seasons
by Louise Borden

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
Snowballs by Lois Ehlert
Waiting for Winter by Sebastian Meschenmoser
In the Snow by Sharon Denslow
Snow! Snow! Snow! by Lee Harper
When Snowflakes Fall by Carl Sams
Snowmen at Night by Caralyn Buehner
Big Snow by Jonathan Bean
Geraldine’s Big Snow by Holly Keller
100 Snowmen by Jen Arena
10 Shiny Snowflakes by Russell Julian

SONG

Snowy Pokey (Do motions called for.)

ACTIVITY

Snowballs: Throw paperwad snowballs into a container.

CRAFT

penguin

FINGERPLAY

Five Little Snowmen
Space

BOOKS
Sheep Blast Off! by Nancy Shaw
I Want to Be an Astronaut by Byron Barton
Zoom, Rocket, Zoom! by Margaret Mayo
Zoom! Zoom! Zoom! I’m Off to the Moon by Dan Yaccarino
On the Launch Pad: A Counting Book About Rockets by Michael Dahl
Astronaut Piggy Wiggy by Christyan Fox
Bringing Down the Moon by Jonathan Emmett
Kitten’s First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes
Moongame by Frank Asch
What the Sun Sees by Nancy Tafuri
And Away We Go! by Migy
The Mouse Who Ate the Moon by Petr Horacek

SONGS
The Planets Zippidy Doo
I Love to Ride in My Spaceship

ACTIVITY
Space Walk: Have children move like they would on the moon. Explain that some planets have more gravity, and ask children to walk like they would on a planet like that.

FINGERPLAY
Countdown
BOOKS

Who Likes Rain by Wong Herbert Yee
Skunk's Spring Surprise by Leslea Newman
The Happy Day by Ruth Krauss
Spring by Ron Hirschi
The Four Seasons: Spring by Maria Rius
Rabbit's Good News by Ruth Lercher Bornstein
Splish, Splash, Spring by Jan Carr
Old Bear by Kevin Henkes
Possum and the Peeper by Anne Hunter
Mouse's First Spring by Lauren Thompson
Spring Things by Bob Raczka
Cold Little Duck, Duck, Duck
by Lisa Westberg Peters
Wake Up, It's Spring by Lisa Campbell Ernst
Spring is Here by Will Hillenbrand
Kite Day by Will Hillenbrand
Little Chick by Amy Hest
Spring is Here by Taro Gomi
It's Spring! by Samantha Berger
Animals in Spring by Martha Rustad
Everything Spring by Jill Esbaum
Snappy Little Springtime
The Chick and the Duckling
by Mirra Ginsburg
A Book of Babies by Il Sung Na

ACTIVITY

Puddle Jump: Place paper plates on the floor and have children jump from puddle to puddle.

FINGERPLAY

Flowers Tall and Small
BOOKS

One Is a Snail, Ten Is a Crab: A Counting by Feet Book by April Pulley Sayre
Silly Sally by Audrey Wood
Don’t Forget the Bacon by Pat Hutchins
Flower Garden by Eve Bunting
The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear by Don and Audrey Wood
Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert
Should I Share My Ice Cream by Mo Willems
Peter Spit a Seed at Sue by Jackie French Koller
Mouse’s First Summer by Lauren Thompson
At the Beach by Anne Rockwell
Summer Wonders by Bob Raczka
A to Z of Summer by Tracy Nelson Maurer
Summer is Summer by Phillis Gershator
Summer Beat by Betsy Franco
Summer by Sian Smith
Let’s Look at Summer by Sarah Schuette
The Seasons: Summer by Nuria Roca
Days in Summer by Victoria Parker
Underwater Dogs by Seth Casteel
Five Little Monkeys Sitting in a Tree by Eileen Christelow
Down by the Bay by Raffi
Ready for Anything by Keiko Kasza
Just Like Daddy by Frank Asch
D.W. All Wet by Marc Brown
Wet Dog by Elise Broach
Let It Shine by Maryann Cocca-Leffler
A Summery Saturday Morning by Margaret Mahy
What’s Silly? by Niki Yektai
The Pig’s Picnic by Keiko Kasza

ACTIVITY

Fishing: Use magnetic fishing poles and construction-paper fish with attached paper clips. Ask children about color and type of fish. Use with Just Like Daddy by Frank Asch

FINGERPLAY

Did You Ever Go Fishing
Things That Go

BOOKS

Mr. Gumpy’s Outing by John Burningham
Night Light by Nicholas Blechman
Giant Pop-Out Vehicles
Maisy’s Book of Things That Go by Lucy Cousins
Bugs That Go by David Carter
I’m Dirty by Kate McMullan
I Stink by Kate McMullan
My Car by Byron Barton
Machines at Work by Byron Barton
Trains by Byron Barton
Airplanes by Byron Barton
Boats by Byron Barton
Trucks by Byron Barton
The Pigeon Loves Things That Go by Mo Willems
Ride, Fly Guy, Ride! by Tedd Arnold
Duck on a Bike by David Shannon
Bunnies on the Go: Getting From Place to Place by Rick Walton
D.W. Rides Again! by Marc Brown
Away We Go! by Rebecca Dotlich
The Wheels on the Bus by Paul Zelinsky
Pete the Cat The Wheels on the Bus by James Dean
Go Go Gorillas by Julia Durango
How Will We Get to the Beach? by Brigitte Luciani
Off We Go! by Will Hillenbrand
Trucks and Other Working Wheels by Jan Pienkowski
I Love Planes! by Philemon Sturges
Little Bear’s Little Boat by Eve Bunting
Truck Jam by Paul Strickland
Duck’s Key Where Can It Be? by Jez Alborough
Farmer John’s Tractor by Sally Sutton
Noisy Peekaboo! Vroom! Vroom!
Maisy’s Book of Things That Go by Lucy Cousins
The Seals on the Bus by Lenny Hort
The Wheels on the Race Car by Alexander Zane
Sheep in a Jeep by Nancy Shaw

SONG
Down by the Station

ACTIVITY
Stop and Go: Use paper plates as steering wheels and have kids drive to a tune like Frantic Freeway by Spike Jones. Have them stop when you show a red paddle, slow for yellow and go for green.

FINGERPLAY
Here’s the Choo Choo Train
Weather

BOOKS

Red Rubber Boot Day by Mary Lyn Ray
Row Row Row Your Boat by Iza Trapani
The Wind Blew by Pat Hutchins
Rain, Rain, Go Away! by Caroline Jayne Church
It’s Raining, It’s Pouring by Kin Eagle
Jack: It’s a Rainy Day
Maisy’s Wonderful Weather Book by Lucy Cousins
Here Comes the Rain by Mary Murphy
The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
Pete’s Puddles by Pierre Pratt
Mushroom in the Rain by Mirra Ginsburg
Are You Ready to Play Outside? by Mo Willems
Little Cloud by Eric Carle
When the Wind Blows by Linda Booth Sweeney
Hello, Sun! by Dayle Ann Dodds
Only My Dad and Me by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
Let It Snow by Maryann Cocca-Leffler
Let It Rain by Maryann Cocca-Leffler
Tap Tap Boom Boom by Elizabeth Bluemle
Caps, Hats, Socks and Mittens: A Book About the Four Seasons by Louise Borden

SONGS

Whistling Wind
Look Outside
On My Umbrella
Rain, Rain

ACTIVITY

Rainstorm: Have children make a rainstorm by first rubbing hands together then snapping faster and faster, then patting their laps, then stamping feet. Count to three and have everyone clap together for thunder, then quiet back down to a drizzle.
Winter

BOOKS
If It’s Snowy and You Know It, Clap Your Paws! by Kim Norman
Bedtime for Bear by Brett Helquist
Me Too! by Valeri Gorbachev
The First Day of Winter by Denise Fleming
Froggy Gets Dressed by Jonathan London
No by Claudia Rueda
Time to Sleep by Denise Fleming
Duck at the Door by Jackie Urbanovic
Snow Rabbit, Spring Rabbit by Il Sung Na
Winter by Sian Smith
Snow by Marion Dane Bauer
Kitten’s Winter by Eugenie Fernandes
Little Chicken by Brigitte Sidjanski
Oh! by Kevin Henkes
Caps, Hats, Socks and Mittens: A Book About the Four Seasons
   by Louise Borden

SONG
Let’s Get Dressed (Act out each line.)

ACTIVITY
Freeze: Have children dance to a song then freeze when the music is paused.

WHITE BOARD ACTIVITY
Clothing Sort: Draw a snowman on one side and the sun on the other. Have children say which side various pictures of clothes belong.

FINGERPLAY
Little Red Nose
BOOKS
Zoo-Looking by Mem Fox
A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip Stead
At the Zoo
Sam Who Never Forgets by Eve Rice
Zoo Babies
Zoo Borns! by Andrew Bleiman
Z is for Zoo
Our Class Took a Trip to the Zoo
   by Shirley Neitzel
1, 2, 3 to the Zoo by Eric Carle
Penguins by Liz Pichon
That's Good! That's Bad! by Margery Cuyler
Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathman
My Heart Is Like a Zoo
   by Michael Hall
A Moose That Says Mooooooooo by Jennifer Hamburg

SONGS
Nine Little Zebras
What Can a Monkey See From a Tree?
Oh, I Work at the Zoo

FINGERPLAYS
An Elephant Goes Like This and That
This Is the Way the Elephant Goes