



April Story Time Ideas from the Elm Grove Library



Create a story time at home using some of the elements below. Whatever your child's age, story time provides an opportunity to play with language and engage with your child.

- You probably already know many rhymes that you can share with your child. For spring, try old classics like *The Eensy Weensy Spider*, *The Beehive*, *Where is Thumbkin* or *Two Blackbirds*. Don't know those? Check out [Finger Rhymes](#), or [Hand Rhymes](#), Collected and Illustrated by Marc Brown (available at the Elm Grove Library.)
- While themes are helpful for organizing library story times, they aren't required. Feel free to mix and match your favorite rhymes, songs and stories however you wish and your enthusiasm will be contagious!
- Keep in mind that literacy development and writing go together. One of the steps to writing is developing the fine motor control needed to hold a pencil or crayon. Finger rhymes are a starting place for young children because they have to think about moving their fingers in a certain way. Unstructured coloring is also helpful because it allows a young child to get comfortable with holding a writing utensil without the pressure of staying in the lines.

Rhymes

Here is the Library (National Library Week is April 4-10)

Here is the library (Hold up right hand)
 On this busy street (Pantomime opening door)
 Let's walk through the door (Shade eyes and look around)
 And see who we meet.

The librarian greets us (Wave hand)
 With a smile (Make smile with fingers)
 And shows us a book (Hold hands as if holding an open book)
 About a crocodile (Turn hands and snap together like crocodile jaws)

We say, No thanks, That's too scary (Shake head, look scared)
 So she shows us a book (Hold hands as if holding an open book)
 About a tiny fairy (Use fingers to show how tiny)

We say, Thank you (Nod head yes)
 And ask for more
 And she gives us a book (Hold hands as if holding an open book)
 About a dinosaur (Show how large with hands)

We check them out (Mime actions)
 And take them home (Pretend to carry them home)
 We're delighted to have them (Smile)
 On a three-week loan (Show three fingers)

I Like Books

I like books, I really do!
 Books with stories, and pictures, too.
 Books of birds and things that grow;
 Books of people we should know.
 Books of animals and places too,
 I like books. Yes, I do!

Hop and Stop (See if your little rabbit can do all of the actions in the rhyme below.)

The first little rabbit went hop, hop, hop.
 I said to the first rabbit, "Stop, stop, stop!"
 The second little rabbit went run, run, run.
 I said to the second rabbit, "Fun, fun, fun!"
 The third little rabbit went thump, thump, thump.
 I said to the third rabbit, "Jump, jump, jump!"
 The fourth little rabbit went sniff, sniff, snuff.
 I said to the fourth rabbit, "That is enough!"
 The fifth little rabbit went creep, creep, creep.
 I said to the fifth rabbit, "It's time to sleep."

Songs

Season Song (Tune: Frère Jacques)

It is springtime, it is springtime
Winter's gone, winter's gone
Summertime is coming, summertime is coming
Won't be long, won't be long.

Five Little Bunnies (Tune: Five little ducks went out to play)

Five little bunnies on a spring day
Went to the carrot patch far away
Mommy bunny called them with a clap-clap-clap
But only four little bunnies came back.

(Continue counting down 4, 3, 2, 1)

Final stanza:

No little bunnies on a spring day
Went to the carrot patch far away
Mommy bunny called them with a clap-clap-clap
And all of the little bunnies came back!

Books

Religious holidays in April:

Asteroid Goldberg: Passover in outer space by Brianna Caplan Sayres. When Asteroid and her parents get stuck in outer space for Passover, Asteroid plans a Passover seder for her family that is truly out-of-this-world.

(The) Easter Egg by Jan Brett. Hoppi the bunny wants to win the egg-decorating contest so the Easter Bunny will choose him to help distribute Easter eggs, but instead, while everyone else is working on their decorations, he finds himself guarding an egg that has fallen from a robin's nest.

Max's Chocolate Chicken by Rosemary Wells. Max and his sister Ruby go on an egg hunt and vie with each other for the prize--a chocolate chicken.

Night of the Moon by Hena Khan. Yasmeen has a wonderful time celebrating the Muslim holy month of Ramadan with her family and friends.

(The) Passover Guest by Susan Kusel. During the Great Depression, Muriel and her family have no money to prepare the seder meal until a mysterious stranger performs a Passover miracle.

Welcoming Elijah: a Passover tale with a tail by Lesléa Newman. Inside the house, a boy prepares for the Passover ritual of welcoming Elijah--meanwhile, outside the house, a kitten lingers in the cold.

National Library Week:

Bats at the Library by Brian Lies. Bored with another normal, inky evening, bats discover an open library window and fly in to enjoy the photocopier, water fountain, and especially the books and stories found there.

Dewey: There's a Cat in the Library by Vicki Myron with Bret Witter. Tells the story of Dewey Readmore Books, a kitten abandoned in the Spencer Library return box and nursed back to health by a librarian.

Goin' Someplace Special by Patricia McKissack. In segregated 1950s Nashville, a young African American girl braves a series of indignities and obstacles to get to one of the few integrated places in town: the public library.

I Took my Frog to the Library by Eric Kimmel. A young girl brings her pets to the library--with predictably disastrous results.

(The) Librarian of Basra: a true story from Iraq by Jeanette Winter. This true story about a librarian's struggle to save her community's priceless collection of books reminds us all how, throughout the world, the love of literature and the respect for knowledge know no boundaries.

(The) Library by Sarah Stewart. Elizabeth Brown loves to read more than anything else, but when her collection of books grows and grows, she must make a change in her life.

Library Lil by Suzanne Williams. A formidable librarian makes readers not only out of the once resistant residents of her small town, but out of a tough-talking, television-watching motorcycle gang as well.

Library Lion by Michelle Knudsen. A lion starts visiting the local library but runs into trouble as he tries to both obey the rules and help his librarian friend.

Spring:

And Then It's Spring by Julie Fogliano. Simple text reveals the anticipation of a boy who, having planted seeds while everything around is brown, fears that something has gone wrong until, at last, the world turns green.

Bloom Boom! By April Pulley Sayre. This photographic exploration of flowers goes from the desert to the woodlands and beyond, celebrating their beautiful variety and the science behind these colorful displays.

Cold Little Duck, Duck, Duck by Lisa Westberg Peters. Early one spring a little duck arrives at her pond and finds it still frozen, but not for long.

Did You Hear Wind Sing Your Name? an Oneida song of spring by Sandra De Coteau Orie. Pictures and words pay homage to the Oneida Indians' view of the cycle of spring.

Fletcher and the Springtime Blossoms by Julia Rawlinson. When Fletcher the fox finds the ground covered in white, he rushes to warn the other animals that spring snow has fallen, but when they follow him back to the meadow, they find something much more fun.

Snow Rabbit Spring Rabbit: a book of changing seasons by Il Sung Na. While other animals migrate, hibernate, or stay busy all winter, a little white rabbit watches.

(The) Twelve Days of Springtime: a school counting book by Deborah Lee Rose.

When Spring Comes by Kevin Henkes. Animals and children alike watch as the world transforms from the dark and dead of winter to a full and blooming spring.