



February 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.

- One way children learn is by repetition, so go ahead and read a book over and over. Change it up by reading in different ways, looking at all of the details in the pictures, or letting your child tell part of the story.
- Point to words on the page from time to time so that your child realizes the words you say are also printed on the page. This print awareness is an early reading skill.
- Sometimes, ask questions as you read to help your child think about the story or predict what might happen. For younger children, this type of conversation helps expand their vocabulary.
- Other times, just read the story straight through to listen to the flow of the words, especially with poetry. This helps children hear words that sound alike, plus they can hear words in context and figure out for themselves the meaning of new words.
- Singing simple songs enhances a child's ability to hear syllables and pronunciation. If you don't know the tune for the songs below, check YouTube or just use the words as a rhyme. You can check out music CD's from the library for additional song ideas.

Rhymes

How Many Valentines? (Create your own version by using different family members or the names of friends)

Valentines, Valentines;

How many do you see?

Valentines, Valentines;

Count them with me:

One for Father (hold up thumb)

One for Mother (hold up pointer finger)

One for Grandma, too (hold up middle finger)

One for Sister (hold up ring finger)

One for Brother (hold up little finger)

And here is one for you! (Make a heart shape with thumbs and pointer fingers) 

Five Little Valentines (Download some of our heart coloring sheets and use them for this rhyme!)

Five little valentines were having a race.

The first little valentine was frilly with lace.

The second little valentine had a funny face.

The third little valentine said, "I love you."

The fourth little valentine said, "I do, too!"

The fifth little valentine was sly as a fox,

She ran the fastest to your valentine box.

Songs

The Wheels on the Bus

(Add verses to incorporate people who are important to you or swap some of the people included. For example, the papas could shush the babies and the mamas could read on the bus.)

The wheels on the bus go 'round and 'round, (hands go round and round each other)
'round and 'round, 'round and 'round;
The wheels on the bus go 'round and 'round,
All through the town.

The driver on the bus says, "Move on back" (gesture with thumb over the shoulder)

The people on the bus go bumpety bump bump (bounce up and down on your seat)

The babies on the bus go "wah, wah, wah" (pretend to cry)

The mamas on the bus go "shh, shh, shh" (shush with finger to lips)

The papas on the bus just read, read, read (hands open like a book)

The grandmas on the bus say "I love you!" (form a heart with thumbs and pointer fingers)

The grandpas on the bus just snore, snore, snore (close eyes and rest head on hands)

Ten Little Hearts (Use the sign for "heart" which is either using a finger from each hand to draw a heart over your heart or tap the right middle finger on the left side of chest.)

One little, two little, three little hearts (make the heart sign)
Four little, five little, six little hearts, (make the heart sign)
Seven little, eight little, nine little hearts (make the heart sign)
Ten little hearts and a kiss! (make the heart sign and blow a kiss)

Dance Like Snowflakes (tune: Frere Jacques)

Dance like snowflakes
Dance like snowflakes
In the air, in the air,
Whirling, twirling snowflakes
Whirling, twirling snowflakes
Everywhere, everywhere.

I'm a Little Groundhog by the Kiboomers (tune: I'm a little teapot)

I'm a little groundhog
Furry and brown
I pop my head out of my hole and look around
If I see my shadow

I'll go back down
For six more weeks of winter underground.

I'm a little groundhog
Furry and brown
I pop my head out of my hole and look around.
If I don't see my shadow
I stay out here
And enjoy an early spring this year.

Recorded Music

Sesame Street: [Elmo and Abby's Valentine's Day Song](#) (YouTube)

Laurie Berkner: [Daisy, Daisy \(Bicycle Built for Two\)](#) (YouTube link or check it out on the CD *Laurie Berkner's Favorite Classic Kids' Songs* at the EGPL)

Books

Possible Themes: Valentine's Day (love, friendship, family, community), Groundhog's Day. For winter/snow book ideas, see DIY January Story Times.

[Bilal Cooks Daal](#) by Aisha Saeed. Bilal and his father invite his friends to help make his favorite dish, daal, then all must wait patiently for it to be done.

[Birdsong](#) by Julie Flett. A young girl moves to a new house and makes friends with the elderly neighbor next door.

[Brownie Groundhog and the February Fox](#) by Susan Blackaby. A groundhog wakes up to look for her shadow but also finds a fox who wants to eat her.

[Chester's Way](#) by Kevin Henkes. Chester and Wilson share the same exact way of doing things until Lilly moves into the neighborhood and shows them that new ways, and new friends, can be good too.

[Goodbye, Friend! Hello, Friend!](#) by Cori Doerrfeld. Best friends understand that saying goodbye to one experience means saying hello to the next, but that does not make it easier when one friend has to move away.

[Groundhog's Day Off](#) by Robb Pearlman. Tired of being asked only about the weather, a sensitive groundhog decides to take a vacation right before the big day in February.

[Guess How Much I Love You](#) by Sam McBratney. During a bedtime game, every time Little Nutbrown Hare demonstrates how much he loves his father, Big Nutbrown Hare gently shows him that the love is returned even more. (There is also a DVD series with this title and these characters available at the EGPL).

[Hair Love](#) by Matthew A. Cherry. A little girl's daddy steps in to help her arrange her wild hair into styles that allow her to be her natural, beautiful self.

[How Do Dinosaurs Say I Love You?](#) by Jane Yolen. Even when little dinosaurs are naughty, it's important to remind them that no matter what they do, they are always loved.

I Love You the Purplest by Barbara Joosse. Two boys discover that their mother loves them equally but in different ways.

Little Bear's Valentine by Else Holmelund Minarik. Little Bear looks forward to giving his mother a valentine and to figuring out who the secret admirer is who sent him one.

Love, Splat by Rob Scotton. Splat the cat has a special valentine for a certain someone in his class.

Madame Badobedah by Sophie Dahl. Who is Madame Badobedah? Mabel sets out to prove that an eccentric new hotel guest is really a supervillain in this witty storybook about an intergenerational friendship.

Mama, Do You Love Me? by Barbara Joosse. A child living in the Arctic learns that a mother's love is unconditional.

Mama Says: a book of love for mothers and sons by Rob D. Walker. A man recalls all of the important lessons Mama taught about behavior and faith in God as he was growing up. Different English phrases are translated into one of eleven languages, including Cherokee, Russian, and Amharic.

Miss Spider's Tea Party by David Kirk. When lonely Miss Spider tries to host a tea party, the other bugs refuse to come for fear of being eaten!

My Best Friend by Julie Fogliano. Two girls quickly become best friends, even before they learn one another's names.

My Friend Suhana: a story of friendship and cerebral palsy by Shaila Abdullah & Aanyah Abdullah. While volunteering with her mother at a community center, a seven-year-old girl befriends Suhana who has cerebral palsy.

Side by Side: a celebration of dads by Chris Raschka. Fathers and kids enjoying time together.

Sweetie by Andrea Zull. Sweetie is awkward, even for a naked mole rat, but with encouragement from her Aunt Ruth, she begins to see that being herself is the best way to find a friend.

Valentine Surprise by Corinne Demas. A little girl tries to create the perfect heart-shaped valentine for her mother on Valentine's Day.

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