

## March 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.

- Don't shy away from songs, rhymes or stories with unfamiliar words as long as there aren't too many. When you explain new words, you expand your child's vocabulary.
- There is value in repetition, so when your child asks you to read it again, go ahead! Reading a book with new words several times through will help your child add those words to their vocabulary.
- For babies and toddlers, talking is an important part of literacy. In addition to reading books and talking about them, be sure to talk with your child about other things throughout the day. Talk about everyday activities and identify the things you see. The more children know about the world around them, the easier it is for them to learn even more.
- Keep in mind that these suggestions are not meant to be a precise formula for developing early reading skills. Reading together should be fun, not a chore. Making shared reading a joyful experience will give your child extra motivation to learn to read for him/herself when the time comes.

Some of these ideas are from Storytimes for Everyone! Developing Young Children's Language and Literacy by Saroj Nadkarni Ghoting and Pamela Martin-Diaz.

### Rhymes

**Five Little Shamrocks** (Using the shamrock on the last page as a template, cut out five shamrocks to use with this rhyme.)

One green shamrock in the morning dew  
Another one sprouted and then there were two.  
Two green shamrocks growing beneath a tree  
Another one sprouted and then there were three.  
Three green shamrocks by the cottage door  
Another one sprouted and then there were four.  
Four green shamrocks near a beehive  
Another one sprouted and then there were five.  
Five little shamrocks bright and emerald green  
Think of all the luck those shamrocks will bring!

**The Leprechauns are Marching** (This is a good rhyme for moving around - march!)

The Leprechauns are marching  
They're marching through the hall  
They're marching on the ceiling  
They're marching down the wall.  
They're marching 2 x 2  
And now it's 4 x 4  
You say you cannot see them?  
Look out! Here come some more!

**Rain, Rain Go Away** (continue with little baby, Mommy, Daddy, etc...wants to play)

Rain, rain go away  
Come again another day.  
Little sister wants to play  
Rain, rain go away.

Rain, Rain go away  
Come again another day.  
Little brother wants to play  
Rain, rain go away.

## **Songs**

**I'm a Little Leprechaun** (to the tune of I'm a Little Teapot)

I'm a Little Leprechaun dressed in green,  
The tiniest man that you ever have seen!  
If you ever catch me, so it's told,  
I'll give to you my pot of gold.

**Do You Know What's Green?** (to the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Start with green, then see if you can make up additional verses with other colors, like red (below). This will challenge your ability to find rhyming words also!

Do, do, do you know  
Do you know what's green?  
Trees and grass and turtles and beans  
Lots of things are green

Do, do, do you know  
Do you know what's red?  
Firetrucks, lollypops,  
And even Santa's sled!

## **Recorded Songs**

Rainbow by Nancy Kopman (YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLNZAJs11SU>)

Somewhere Over the Rainbow and What a Wonderful World by Israel IZ Kamakawiwo'ole (YouTube link - includes lots of photos of rainbows <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fahr069-fzE>)

The Rainbow Song by Signing Time (YouTube link - includes ASL sign language [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRs\\_cZjH6Kw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRs_cZjH6Kw))

## **Books**

**Possible Themes:** St. Patrick's Day, Rainbows and Colors, Rainy or Windy Weather.

(The) Big Umbrella by Amy June Bates. A spacious umbrella welcomes anyone and everyone who needs shelter from the rain.

Blue Chicken by Deborah Freedman. An enterprising chicken attempts to help an artist paint the barnyard and accidentally turns the whole picture blue.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear by Bill Martin. Children see a variety of animals, each one a different color, and a teacher looking at them.

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina. This tale of a peddler selling different colored caps and a band of mischievous monkeys is filled with warmth, humor, and simplicity.

(The) Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt. When Duncan arrives at school one morning, he finds a stack of letters, one from each of his crayons, complaining about how he uses them.

(A) Day with No Crayons by Elizabeth Rusch. A little girl discovers all sorts of artistic possibilities when she has to go a day without crayons.

Happy in Our Skin by Fran Manushkin. This is actually an ode to skin - what it does and how it looks – and the representation of skin colors is very inclusive.

I Ain't Gonna Paint No More by Karen Beaumont. In the rhythm of a familiar folk song, a child cannot resist adding one more dab of paint in surprising places.

In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb by Marion Dane Bauer. Describes in verse the lion that is March weather, which finally gives way to the lamb of spring.

Kite Day: a Bear and Mole book by Will Hillenbrand. Bear and Mole build a kite and take it out on a windy day, but when the weather suddenly turns stormy, there are unexpected consequences for some birds.

Magnificent Homespun Brown: a celebration by Samara Cole Doyon. Told by a succession of exuberant young narrators, this is a song, a poem, a celebration about feeling at home in one's own beloved skin.

(The) Napping House by Audrey Wood. In this cumulative tale of a rainy day, a wakeful flea atop a number of sleeping creatures causes a commotion, with just one bite.

Peep and Ducky Rainy Day by David Martin. When Peep visits Ducky on a rainy day, the little pals have no trouble finding things to do.

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert. A mother and child plant a rainbow of flowers in the family garden.

(The) Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad with S.K. Ali. With her new backpack and light-up shoes, Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It's the start of a brand new year and, best of all, it's her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab--a hijab of beautiful blue fabric, like the ocean waving to the sky. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and in the face of hurtful, confusing words, Faizah will find new ways to be strong.

Rain by Sam Usher. Forced to stay indoors during a rainstorm, young Sam drinks hot chocolate, reads, and dreams of adventures while his Granddad does paperwork until the need to mail an important letter triggers an adventure into the wet outdoors.

Raindrops Roll by April Pulley Sayre. A photo-illustrated picture book that sheds new light on the wonders of rain, from the beauty of a raindrop balanced on a leaf to the amazing never-ending water cycle that keeps our planet in ecological balance.

Ten Lucky Leprechauns by Kathryn Heling and Deborah Hembrook. In rhyming text, ten lucky leprechauns play in the woods, in a book introducing both St. Patrick's Day and the numbers one through ten.

Too Many Leprechauns or How That Pot o' Gold Got to the End of the Rainbow by Stephen Krensky. Finn O'Finnegan returns home after a year in Dublin and when he finds his village taken over by leprechauns, he must devise a way to get them to leave without making them angry.

(The) Windy Day by Anna Milbourne and Elena Temporin. Two children observe what the wind can do, from flying a kite to turning a windmill.

Compiled by Sue Daniels, Assistant Director and Youth Services Librarian  
Elm Grove Public Library  
2021

