



May 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.

- Rhymes hold the attention of young children and help early readers identify words. Try substituting different words in some of the rhymes below to listen for the matching sounds.
- You will find lots of rhymes that count up to or down from five or ten, so talk about what those numbers mean. Talk about quantities and which number represents more, less, bigger smaller, etc... When you talk about these concepts, you give your child the background they need to express math concepts in the future.
- Singing simple songs enhances a child's ability to hear syllables and pronunciation. If you don't know the tune, check YouTube, use the words as a rhyme or make up your own tune.
- Point to words on the page as you say them so your child can begin to connect reading and writing.
- Ask questions as you read to help your child think about the story or predict what might happen.
- Coloring strengthens a child's ability to hold a pencil or crayon which is the first step in writing. Take home or download a coloring sheet and talk about how the picture relates to the stories you are reading.

Rhymes

Five Little Kittens

Five little kittens sleeping on a chair. (Hold up all five fingers on one hand.)

One rolled off, leaving four there.

Four little kittens, one climbed a tree (four fingers)

To look in a bird's nest, then there were three.

Three little kittens wondered what to do. (three fingers)

One saw a mouse, then there were two.

Two little kittens playing near a wall. (two fingers)

One little kitten chased a red ball.

One little kitten with fur soft as silk. (one finger)

Left all alone to drink a dish of milk.

Five Little Fishes

Five little fishes were swimming near the shore.

One took a dive, then there were four.

Four little fishes were swimming out to sea.

One went for food, then there were three.

Three little fishes said: "Now what shall we do?"

One swam away, and then there were two.

Two little fishes were having great fun.

One took a plunge and then there was one.

One little fish said: "I like the warm sun."

Away he went and then there were none.

The Rabbit

I saw a little rabbit come...hop, hop, hop! (make hopping motions with hands and arms)
I saw his two long ears go...flop, flop, flop! (put hands on head like rabbit ears and flop back and forth)
I saw his little nose go ...twink, twink, twink (wiggle nose)
I saw his little eyes go...wink, wink, wink. (wink eyes)
I said, "Little Rabbit, won't you stay?"
Then he looked at me (pause and stare)
And hopped away! (fast hopping motion)

I dig, dig, dig

I dig, dig, dig (pretend to dig)
And I plant some seeds. (Stoop down and plant seeds)
I rake, rake, rake (pretend to rake)
And I pull some weeds. (pull up weeds)
I wait and watch
And soon I know (Nod head)
My garden sprouts (raise hands up from the ground)
And starts to grow!

Songs

I'm a little kitty cat (tune: I'm a little teapot)

I'm a little kitty cat nice and sweet
Here are my whiskers (move hands from nose to sides like pulling on whiskers)
Here are my feet (wave hands like front paws)
When I go out hunting (lower voice)
Mice beware!
Or, you might just have a scare! (move hands like you are pouncing)

The Farmer Plants Corn (tune: Here we go 'round the mulberry bush)

First the farmer plows the ground, plows the ground, plows the ground.
First the farmer plows the ground, then he plants the seeds.
This is the way he plants the seeds, plants the seeds, plants the seeds.
This is the way he plants the seeds, so that they will grow.
The rain and sun will help them grow, help them grow, help them grow.
The rain and sun will help them grow, right up through the ground.
Now the farmer picks the corn, picks the corn, picks the corn.
Now the farmer picks the corn and we have food to eat!

Books (Possible themes: Animals/pets, gardens/plants/flowers)

Be Gentle! by Virginia Miller. When Bartholomew gets a little black kitten, he must learn to take care of him and be gentle with him.

Big Cat, Little Cat by Elisha Cooper. A moving tale about friendship, new beginnings, and cats.

Bird Songs by Betsy Franco. Throughout the day and into the night various birds sing their songs, beginning with the woodpecker who taps a pole ten times and counting down to the hummingbird who calls once.

Birdsong by Julie Flett. A young girl befriends the elderly woman next door who shares her love of nature and art. Includes a brief glossary and pronunciation guide to Cree-Métis words that appear in the text.

Cat Dog Dog: the story of a blended family by Nelly Buchet. A blended family from the pets' point of view.

A Cat Named Swan by Holly Hobbie. After surviving on the streets, a homeless cat discovers the joys of living with a human family.

Cats Know Best by Colin Eisler. Cats know how to keep warm or cool, find food, play, keep clean, and take care of their kittens.

Cecil the Pet Glacier by Matthea Harvey. Ruby Small's embarrassingly eccentric parents take her on a vacation to Norway where she acquires an unwanted pet, a glacier named Cecil, who finds a way to melt Ruby's heart.

Dear Mrs. Larue: letters from obedience school written and illustrated by Mark Teague. Gertrude LaRue receives typewritten and paw-written letters from her dog Ike, entreating her to let him leave the Igor Brotweiler Canine Academy and come back home.

Dino Pets by Lynn Plourde. A boy brings home various dinosaurs from the pet store, but discovers that neither the biggest nor the smallest, the softest nor the scariest, makes an ideal pet.

Du Iz Tak? by Carson Ellis. Insects discover an unfamiliar green shoot rising from the ground and explore all its creative possibilities using their own invented language.

In My Garden by Charlotte Zolotow. A little girl and her older friend poetically describe the garden as it changes through the seasons.

In the Tall, Tall Grass by Denise Fleming. A toddler's view of creatures found in the grass from lunchtime 'til nightfall, such as bees, ants, and moles.

Nest by Jorey Hurley. A simple depiction of a year in the life of a bird.

The Octopuppy by Martin McKenna. Edgar wanted a pet dog, but what he got instead was a rather brilliant octopus named Jarvis.

On Meadowview Street by Henry Cole. Upon moving to a new house, young Caroline and her parents encourage wildflowers to grow and birds and animals to stay in their yard, which soon has the whole suburban street living up to its name.

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

A Pup Just for Me; A Boy Just for Me by Ed Young. A rhyming story about a boy who is offered every kind of pet except the puppy he wants. When the book is turned over, the story is told from the dog's point of view.

Seven Hungry Babies by Candace Fleming. A mother bird frantically tries to keep her seven baby birds fed.

Uses for Mooses and Other Popular Pets by Mike Thaler. Suggests using exotic pets like mooses, alligators, and octopi, as hat racks, staplers, and string quartets.

