

Mice Are Nice!

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

Here are ideas and activities to try this week with your child. Each activity is based on one of the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles of early literacy development and is designed to engage your child, stimulate his or her literacy skills, and enhance the bonds between you.

- **SHARE BOOKS** After sharing a book, such as *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, provide props like a play cookie, milk cup, napkin, mirror, and so on. Encourage children to use the props to re-enact and retell the story. Retelling stories is a great way to increase your child's narrative skills.
- **SHARE WORDS** Introduce your child to words that change when they are in a plural form, like "mouse" and "mice." Here are a few other examples; louse/lice, goose/geese, child/children, foot/feet, and tooth/teeth.
- **SHARE RHYMES** Share Mother Goose rhymes to help your child understand story concepts such as beginning, middle, and end, as well as first, next, and last. Many Mother Goose rhymes tell a short story that demonstrates these story concepts.
- **SHARE SONGS** Sing mouse songs, such as "Three Blind Mice." Just like Mother Goose rhymes, this song also tells a story.
- **SHARE STORIES** Have your child create and tell a mouse story from a cat's point of view.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Play Cat and Mouse with your child. This is a simple game of chase with you as the cat and your child as the mouse. Cat chases the mouse, and when the mouse is tagged, she becomes the cat and you become the mouse for another round of the game.
- **SHARE WRITING** Print words that are related to mice (mouse, mice, squeal, tail, cheese) on small index cards and attach a 6-inch piece of gray yarn to each. Put the cards in a bag or box with the yarn tails hanging down the side. Invite your child to pull a mouse tail and then copy the word on the card onto a sheet of paper or use magnetic letters to spell it out.

Here are the words to the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with your child throughout the week, you will help him or her make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

Songs

Moving Hands

(sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

Put your hands on your head, (*Suit actions to words*)

Put your hands on your knees,

Put your hands behind you now,

If you please.

Put your hands on your tummy,

Put your hands on your toes,

Put your hands upon your cheeks,

Put them on your nose.

Put your hands in the air,

Put your hands on your hair,

Clap your hands, one, two, three,

Then fold them on your knees.

Hickory Dickory Dock

(*Bend arm at elbow; move back and forth from side to side for "hickory dickory dock"*)

Hickory dickory dock,

The mouse ran up the clock,

The clock struck one, and down he run,

Hickory dickory dock.

Additional Verses

...The clock struck two, and down he flew ...

...The clock struck three, and he did flee ...

...The clock struck four, he hit the floor ...

...The clock struck five, he took a dive ...

...The clock struck six, the mouse, he split ...

...The clock struck seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven ...

...When twelve bells rang, the mousie sprang ...

Hickory dickory dock,

"Why scamper?" asked the clock,

"You scare me so, I have to go!"

Hickory Dickory dock.

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

Three White Mice

(sung to the tune of "Three Blind Mice")

Three white mice, three white mice, *(Hold up three fingers)*
See how they dance, see how they dance. *(Wiggle fingers)*
They danced around for the farmer's wife,
Who played for them on a silver fife, *(Play pretend fife)*
Did you ever see such a sight in your life,
As three white mice? *(Hold up three fingers)*
(Repeat)

Little Bunny Foo Foo

(Act out motions as given in song)

Little Bunny Foo Foo, hopping through the forest,
Scooping up the field mice and boppin' 'em on the head.
(Spoken) Down came the good fairy, and she said:

"Little Bunny Foo Foo, I don't want to see you
Scooping up the field mice and boppin' 'em on the head.
(Spoken) I'll give you three chances,
And if you don't behave, I'll turn you into a goon!"

(Spoken) The next day:

Little Bunny Foo Foo, hopping through the forest,
Scooping up the field mice and boppin' 'em on the head.
(Spoken) Down came the good fairy, and she said:

"Little Bunny Foo Foo, I don't want to see you
Scooping up the field mice and boppin' 'em on the head.
(Spoken) I'll give you two more chances,
And if you don't behave, I'll turn you into a goon!"
(Spoken) The next day:

Little Bunny Foo Foo, hopping through the forest,
Scooping up the field mice and boppin' 'em on the head.
(Spoken) Down came the good fairy, and she said:

"Little Bunny Foo Foo, I don't want to see you
Scooping up the field mice and boppin' 'em on the head.
(Spoken) I'll give you one more chance,
And if you don't behave, I'll turn you into a goon!"

(Spoken) The next day:

Little Bunny Foo Foo, hopping through the forest,
Scooping up the field mice and boppin' 'em on the head.
(Spoken) Down came the good fairy, and she said:

"Little Bunny Foo Foo, I don't want to see you
Scooping up the field mice and boppin' 'em on the head.
(Spoken) I gave you three chances, but you didn't behave.
Now you're a goon! POOF!!"
And the moral of the story is:
HARE TODAY, GOON TOMORROW!

Library Storytime Song

(sung to the tune of "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad")

I came to my storytime
(Sway side to side throughout and point to self)
At the library today,
I came to my storytime *(Point to self)*
To sing, and laugh, and play.

I listened to some picture books,
Sang songs, said some rhymes,
I hope I can come back again,
Because I had a very good time!
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
I want to come back to storytime!
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
To my storytime!
(Spoken) See you soon! *(Wave goodbye)*

Rhymes

Old Gray Cat

The old gray cat is sleeping, sleeping, sleeping.
The old gray cat is sleeping in the house.
(Pretend to sleep)

The little mice are creeping, creeping, creeping.
The little mice are creeping through the house.
(Creep fingers of one hand up other arm)

The old gray cat is waking, waking, waking.
The old gray cat is waking through the house.
(Stretch like when waking up)

The old gray cat is chasing, chasing, chasing.
The old gray cat is chasing through the house.
(Move hands fast like chasing)

All the mice are squealing, squealing, squealing.
All the mice are squealing through the house.
(Squeal like mice)

Baby Mice

Where are the baby mice? *(Shield eyes with hand as if searching)*
Squeak, squeak, squeak, *(Open and close hands)*
I cannot see them peek, peek, peek,
(Shield eyes with hand as if searching)
Here they come out of their hole in the wall,
(Bring fist from behind back to front)
One, two, three, four, five, and that is all! *(Put up one finger at a time)*

'Round the House

'Round the house, *(Circle index finger on palm)*
'Round the house,
Goes the little mouse,
Up the stairs, *(Walk index and middle fingers up arm)*
Up the stairs,
In his little house.