

Water Critters

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** Informational books provide different and more complex vocabulary than story books. Share books on topics that interest your child, like ocean life.
- **SHARE WORDS** Share unfamiliar ocean and sea life words: coral, shoreline, kelp, plankton, algae, barrier reef, sea urchin, scallops, sponge, grouper, trout, bass, shellfish, clown fish, lobster, oyster. Repeat new words several times so your child learns how to pronounce them.
- **SHARE RHYMES** Point out rhyming word pairs as you read rhymes to your child and see if she is able to pair rhyming words. Ask her to provide rhyming words, for example, for the word “fish” (dish, wish, swish, squish).
- **SHARE SONGS** Children love the “Shark Song” we did in storytime. Act it out with your child. Also, share other songs on this theme, like “Down by the Bay,” and have your child make up a new verse.
- **SHARE STORIES** Explain the term “fish tale” to your child (an exaggerated tale of the size of a fish that was caught). Make up an exaggerated story (how many hotcakes you ate, how far you can jump or swim, how many times you sneezed today, and so on). Then see if your child can make up a fish tale.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Put plastic fish and other sea creatures in the bathtub for a special bath time. Use the animals to make up a sea story, and have your child help.
- **SHARE WRITING** Print the word “Fish” on a piece of paper. Provide a tray (or shallow pan) of sand, and invite your child to use her finger to copy the word in the sand.

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, (*Motions follow actions*)
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.

Crocodile Song

She sailed away on a bright, sunny day,
On the back of a crocodile.
(*Hold hands together and move them like a crocodile swimming*)
“You see,” said she, “he’s as tame as he can be,
(*Have one hand “pet” the other hand*)
I’ll ride him down the Nile.”
Oh, the croc winked an eye when she bade them all good-bye,
(*Wink or point to eye; wave goodbye*)
Wearing a happy smile. (*Point to your smile*)
At the end of the ride, the lady was inside, (*Rub tummy*)
And the smile was on the crocodile! (*Point to your smile*)

Shark Song

Baby shark, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
(*Make a shark mouth with hands connected at wrist*)
Baby shark, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
Baby shark, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
Baby shark!

Momma shark, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
(*Make a shark mouth with forearms connected at elbows*)
Momma shark, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
Momma shark, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
Momma shark!

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

Daddy shark, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
(Make a shark mouth with full arms)
Daddy shark, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
Daddy shark, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
Daddy shark!

Hungry sharks, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
(Put hand on top of head like a shark fin; rub stomach with other hand)
Hungry sharks, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
Hungry sharks, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
Hungry sharks!

Swim away, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
(Make swimming motion with arms)
Swim away, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
Swim away, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
Swim away!

Swim faster, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
(Swim very fast!)
Swim faster, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
Swim faster, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
Swim faster!

Safe at last, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
(Rub hand across brows for "safe")
Safe at last, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
Safe at last, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
Safe at last!

That's the end, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
(Smack backside with both hands to beat)
That's the end, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
That's the end, doo-doo, doo-doo de doo,
That's the end!

Three Little Fish

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

Three little fish,
Wiggle, wiggle, swish! (Wiggle and swish hands)
See how they swim, (Make swimming motions)
See how they swim.
They wiggle their fins and they swish their tails.
(Wiggle and swish hands)
Along the ocean currents they sail.
Did you ever wish to swim with a fish? (Make swimming motions)
Wiggle, wiggle, swish! (Wiggle and swish hands)
Wiggle, wiggle, swish!

Library Storytime Song

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

I came to my storytime
(Sway from 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

Crocodile

If you should meet a crocodile,
(Make a crocodile mouth with forearms connected at elbows)
Don't take a stick and poke him, (Hold out hand and pretend to poke)
Ignore the welcome of his smile, (Point to smile)
Be careful not to stroke him, (One hand strokes the other)
For as he sleeps upon the Nile, (Rest head on folded hands)
He gets thinner and thinner,
(Hold palms close together but not touching)
And whenever you meet a crocodile,
(Make a crocodile mouth with forearms connected at elbows)
He's looking for his dinner. (Snap hands together in a clap)

Five Little Fishes

Five little fishes, (Hold up five fingers)
Swimming in the sea, (Move other hand like a fish swimming)
Teasing Mr. Shark, (Put one thumb in each ear and wiggle fingers)
You can't catch me!
Along came Mr. Shark, (Hold two hands together and move like a shark)
Floating quiet as can be,
And he snapped one fish (Make quick snapping motion with one hand)
Right out of the sea!

Additional Verses

Four little fishes swimming in the sea ... (Repeat motions as above)
Three little fishes swimming in the sea ... (Repeat motions as above)
Two little fishes swimming in the sea ... (Repeat motions as above)
One little fish swimming in the sea ... (Repeat motions as above)
No more fish in the sea! (Hold hands up showing "no more")

Five Dancing Dolphins

One dancing dolphin on a sea of blue,
(Hold up finger and wiggle as if dancing)
She called her sister,
Then there were two. (Hold up another finger for each dolphin)
Two dancing dolphins swimming in the sea,
They called for Mother,
Then there were three.
Three dancing dolphins swimming close to shore,
They called for Daddy
Then there were four.
Four dancing dolphins in a graceful dive,
They called for baby,
Then there were five.
Five dancing dolphins on a sea of blue.