
Your youngest children can say the sounds of the animals, the names of the animals, and older children can repeat the words “too noisy”, while older children retell the whole story, or as much of it as they can. Each step builds to retelling stories which helps children learn how stories work, and helps them understand the story itself.
Storytime: Animals All Around

Books we shared included:
- *What's New on the Farm* by Catherine Nichols
- *I Love You Sun, I Love You Moon* by Karen Pandell
- *Cows in the Kitchen* by June Crebbin
- *Who Am I?* by Begin Smart Books
- *Sheep in a Jeep* by Nancy Shaw
- *Duck Rabbit* by Amy Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenheld
- *Too Noisy* by Ann McGovern

Songs and Rhymes

**Come Along and Sing with Me**
Come along and sing with me; it’s time for storytime.
[bounce, sit, clap, stretch, sing]

**Peek-a-Boo** to the tune of Frère Jacques
Peek a boo, peek a boo.
I see you; I see you.
I see your button nose.
I see your tiny toes.
I see you; peek a boo.

**Hickory Dickory Dock**
Hickory dickory dock.
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck one.
The mouse ran down.
Hickory dickory dock.

**Rig a Jig Jig**
from Songs and Games for Toddlers by Bob McGrath
As I was walking down the street, down the street, down the street
A little friend I chanced to meet, Hi-ho, hi-ho, hi-ho!
Rig-a-jig-jig and away we go, away we go, away we go, [gallop]
Rig-a-jig-jig and away we go, Hi-ho, hi-ho, hi-ho!

**Chicken Family to the tune of Down by the Station**
Down in the barnyard, early in the morning
See the little chicken family all in a row.
See the mommy chicken.
She is called a hen.
Cluck, cluck, cluck.
And off she goes!
Down in the barnyard, early in the morning
See the little chicken family all in a row.
See the daddy chicken.
He is called a rooster.
Cock-a-doodle-doo.
And off he goes!
Down in the barnyard, early in the morning
See the little chicken family all in a row.
See the baby chickens
They are called chicks.
Peep, peep, peep.
And off they go!

**Wiggles**
Wiggle your fingers, wiggle your toes, wiggle your shoulders, wiggle your nose.
Now all the wiggles are out of me and I will sit as still as I can be.

**Merrily to tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb**
Merrily we stroll along, stroll along, stroll along;
Merrily we stroll along, waving to our friends.

**Abracadabra**
Abracadabra ziggety zing. You can be anything.
Just close your eyes, and turn around.
Then make a wish with a rhyming sound.
Abracadabra ziggety zarmer. You can be a farmer!

**Goodbye Song**
This is the way our hands say goodbye, with a clap, clap-clap; clap, clap-clap.
This is the way our knees say goodbye, with a tap tap-tap. Tap tap-tap.
This is the way we wave goodbye, wave goodbye, wave goodbye
This is the way we wave goodbye, goodbye until next time.

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You help your children develop narrative skills when you
- Encourage your baby to babble/talk
- Ask what questions and have your toddler repeat what you say; have your child respond to open-ended questions
- Encourage your preschooler to tell and retell stories

Narrative skills, your child’s ability to describe things and events and to tell and retell stories helps them understand how stories work and will later help them understand what they read.