

AND WE'RE OFF!

TRAVEL ADVENTURES

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STORYTIME BOOKS

Babies

Zoom! (series) board books by Susan Hayes and illustrated by Sam Rennocks. Explore everything from dinosaurs to space in this enthusiastically reviewed series for babies and toddlers. In English.

Go, Bikes, Go! (2019) by Addie Boswell and illustrated by Alexander Mostov. Fresh, energetic rhymes make for an exuberant, bike-themed storytime. In English.

The Whales on the Bus (2020) by Katrina Charman. A silly, updated version of “The Wheels on the Bus” that can be sung rather than read. See also *Car, Car, Truck, Jeep* (2018) by the same author. In English.

Look, Look, Look! ¡Mira, Mira, Mira! (2020) by Bob Barner. Happy dogs zip around in wacky vehicles. Simple, energetic language. Bilingual.

¡Vámanos! (L'il Libros series, 2020–21) by Patty Rodriguez and Ariana Stein, and illustrated by Citlali Reyes. Travel to different Latin American countries. Bilingual.

Toddlers

EEK! A Noisy Journey From A To Z (2020) by Julia Larios and illustrated by Julie Paschkis. A lively, interactive alphabet journey with clever wordplay. Starred reviews. In English.

Truck Full of Ducks (2018) by Ross Burach. The dogs eat the delivery instructions for a truck full of ducks, and hijinks ensue. A silly, call-and-response story that is sure to engage toddlers. In English.

Set Sail for Pancakes (2022) by Tim Kleyn. A charming, playful story about a grandfather and granddaughter who gather pancake supplies by boat. Also great for preschoolers. In English.

Bearplane! (2022) by Deborah Underwood and illustrated by Sam Wedelich. A bear cub takes their first plane ride. Buoyant and fun. Also great for preschoolers. In English.

The Suitcase (2020) by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros. A weary traveler pulls surprises out of his suitcase. The story focuses on kindness and displacement. Also great for preschoolers. In English.

Bye, Penguin (2020) by Seou Lee. A penguin takes a solo trip around the world on an ice flow. In English (but nearly wordless).

Tiny Travelers series (2019–20) by Susie Jaramillo. Travel to different countries all over the world. In English with Spanish words.

TIP:

Use hello/goodbye songs to ease transitions, and incorporate children's names.

TIP:

What makes for an engaging storytime read? Think movement prompts, call and response, rhyme, and repetition. Children don't have to sit silently through every story, and movement can bring them back when they start to lose interest.

TIP:

Older books *Wherever You Go* (2015), *Maisy Goes on a Plane* (2017), and *Abuelita fue al mercado / Granny Went to Market* (2007) are also great rhyming books for a travel theme.

TODDLERS

Odd Dog Out (2019) by Rob Biddulph. A dog travels the world to find a place she fits in. A cheery celebration of difference. Also great for preschoolers. In English.

Sock on the Loose (2021) by Conor McGlaufflin. Clever rhymes about the journey of a missing sock. Also great for preschoolers. In English.

Las ruedas del autobús / The Wheels on the Bus (2017) by Stella Blackstone and illustrated by Melanie Williamson. A bus ride from a Guatemalan village to a market town with this fresh approach to a favorite song. Great for storytime; includes audio CD. Separate Spanish and English editions.

Preschoolers

Blue Floats Away (2021) by Travis Jonker and illustrated by Grant Snider. An iceberg takes a transformative adventure. Excellent book to read before a water-based STEM activity. Starred reviews across the board. In English.

Lift (2020) by Minh Lê and illustrated by Dan Santat. An uplifting read-aloud about a mysterious new elevator button that opens up hidden worlds. Starred reviews across the board. In English.

The Littlest Airplane (2022) by Brooke Hartman and illustrated by John Joseph. Big, colorful scenes make for a vibrant rhyming read-aloud about a bush plane's adventure. In English.

Field Trip to Volcano Island (2022) by John Hare. A wordless adventure to a thrilling volcanic island. A great conversation starter: Ask children to help tell the story in whatever language(s) they speak. *SLJ* starred review. Wordless.

¡Vamos! Let's Cross the Bridge (2021) by Raúl the Third. A dynamic story about Little Lobo and his friends crossing a bridge in a truck to get to a celebration. In English with Spanish words.

El gallo sale a ver el mundo / Rooster's Off to See the World (2018) by Eric Carle. A simple introduction to numbers; a rooster explores the world and is joined by animal friends along the way. Great STEM storytime choice. Separate Spanish and English editions.

Un verano especial con la abuela / Something About Grandma (2022) by Tania de Regil. A calm intergenerational story about a little girl who travels to visit her grandmother in Mexico. Includes poems. Separate Spanish and English editions.

Poppi, la niña del gorro rojo, al rescate / Red Knit Cap Girl to the Rescue (2019) by Naoko Stoop. The main characters take to the high seas as they set off on a journey to help a lost polar bear cub find his way back to his family and his arctic home. Separate Spanish and English editions.

Mariana and her Familia (2022) by Mónica Mancillas and illustrated by Erika Meza. A longer story about a young girl's first trip to visit her family in Mexico. In English with Spanish words.

TIP:

If whole families come to storytime, have coloring sheets or crafts to keep older children occupied, or invite them to be your special helpers.

STORYTIME SONGS

Lapsit/Bounce: This Is the Way the People Ride

To the tune of "Mulberry Bush." Sing faster with each verse. Piggyback lyrics from CSLP.

This is the way the people ride, the people ride, the people ride
This is the way the people ride, early in the morning.

Verses:

The babies ride
The bunnies ride
The puppies ride
The kitties ride

Song: I Can Travel

To the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Piggyback lyrics from CSLP.

I can travel near or far, on a plane or in a car.
By myself or with a friend, fun adventures never end.
I can travel near or far, on a plane or in a car.

Song/Movement: I'm an Airplane

To the tune of "Frère Jacques." Lyrics from Jbrary on YouTube here: <https://bit.ly/46umMGH>

I'm an airplane, I'm an airplane
Flying high, flying high
I can tilt this way, I can tilt this way
In the sky, in the sky

I'm an airplane, I'm an airplane
Flying high, flying high
I can make a landing, I can make a landing
From the sky, from the sky

TIP:

"Riding in My Car" from Miss Nina on the Sha Doo Be Doop album also makes a fun song for a vehicles theme.
<https://bit.ly/3qXLLlp>

STORYTIME SONGS

Song: Shiny Car

To the tune of “B-I-N-G-O.” Piggyback lyrics from CSLP.

I'm riding in my shiny car,
I'm driving it today-o.
C - A - R (BEEP! BEEP!)
C - A - R (BEEP! BEEP!)
C - A - R (BEEP! BEEP!)
I'm driving it today-o!

Song/Rhyme: Adventure We Will Go

To the tune of “A Hunting We Will Go.” Piggyback lyrics from CSLP.

Adventure, we will go; adventure, we will go
We'll find a fox and do some hops
And then we'll watch it go

Verses:

We'll find a bear and have a scare
We'll find a goat and pet its coat
We'll find a frog and cross the bog
We'll find a mouse who has some doubts

Song/Movement: Baja la Casita, Baja / Down to the Little House We Go

Folk song from Columbia, slightly modified for storytime by CSLP. Every time you sing “agacher” (in every conjugation), the children crouch down.

Baja la casita, baja
Dos periquitos van
Uno que va adelante
Otro que va detrás.

Agáchese, mi niño, agáchese
Vuélvase a agachar
Que el niño que no se agacha
No sabe jugar

Song: Barquito de Papel / Paper Boat

Folk song from Cuba. A cute song to combine with a boat/water activity. Listen to a version from Canti Rondas on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3O3dGtz>

Barquito de papel, mi amigo fiel
Llévame a navegar por el ancho mar.
Yo quiero conocer a niños de aquí y de allá
y a todos llevar mi flor de amistad.
¡Abajo la guerra, arriba la paz!

TIP:

Provide printed lyrics (or show on a projector) so families can sing along. Encourage caregivers to take a picture of the lyrics so they can practice the songs at home.

STORYTIME SONGS

Los niños queremos reír y cantar.

Literal English translation (does not rhyme):

My faithful friend, take me sailing across the wide sea.
I want to meet children from here and there
and everyone take my friendship flower.
Down with the war, here comes peace!
We children want to laugh and sing.

Song: La Playa (Chorus)

Song about going to the beach. Music and lyrics from 123 Andrés on the album *Actívate*; lyrics reprinted with permission. Listen to audio on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3NT1Y4k>

La arena está caliente
No me quiero quemar
Ay, la arena está caliente
Ay, no me quiero quemar

El viento está muy fuerte
Me voy a despeinar
Ay, el viento está muy fuerte
Ay, me voy a despeinar

El agua está muy fría
Me voy a congelar
¡Oye! El agua está muy fría
Ay, me voy a congelar

Oh eh oh, la arena está caliente
Oh eh oh, el viento está muy fuerte
Oh eh oh, el agua está muy fría
Oh eh oh, y el sol vuelve a brillar

Song/Movement: El Gran Merengue / The Great Merengue

Great song for getting up and dancing. Lyrics and music by 123 Andrés from the album *Actívate*; lyrics printed with permission. Listen to song from 123 Andrés on YouTube here: <https://bit.ly/3JCGjLI>

Vamo' a activarnos con este invento
Vamo' a movernos con el tambor
Esto es un clásico, siempre moderno
Esto es lo básico, es lo mejor

Nació en África, creció en Quisqueya
Y hasta Manhattan vino a parar
Güira y tambora, tócalo ahora
Vamos familia a ejercitar

STORYTIME SONGS

Vamo' a movernos aquí, a movernos allá
 Vamo' a movernos, vamo' a girar
 Dame un pasito pa'l frente, un pasito pa' atrás
 Vamo' a movernos con este gran merengue

English version:

Let's move together with this creation
 The power of the drum, it's time to move
 Music is timeless in every nation
 Let the merengue bring out the best in you, yeah!

This magic rhythm was born in Africa
 And in Quisqueya is where the music grew
 And when the güira and the tambora
 Arrived in New York City we knew just what to do.

So step left and step right
 Dance and move through the night
 The Great Merengue is great for everyone.

TIP:

Add printed lyrics to a coloring sheet for children to color at the library or take home.

STAY-AND-PLAY

Babies/Toddlers: Parachute with Stuffed Vehicles

While in a circle, add stuffed vehicles and animals one at a time to a parachute. Ask open-ended questions about where the vehicles and animals are going. Then lift and lower the parachute while saying "Go, go, go!"

Toddlers/Preschoolers: Paper Boats

Premake origami boats for children to play with, or purchase disposable serving boats, which last longer in water. Children fill their "boats" with toys and float them in tubs of water.

Toddlers/Preschoolers: Car Rides

Provide large empty boxes, and attach rope so caregivers can pull them. Decorate the room with objects (plants, animals, buildings) you might see on a road trip. Children go for "rides" in their boxes. Encourage caregivers to ask open-ended questions about what they see.

Toddlers/Preschoolers: Chalk Vehicles

Children draw fantastical cars/boats/planes with sidewalk chalk and help decorate the front of the library.

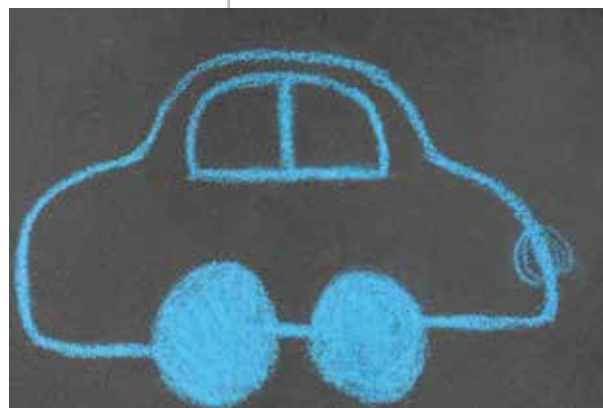


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GO OUTSIDE! ADVENTURES IN NATURE

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STORYTIME BOOKS

Babies

Let's Go, Ted! (2018) by Sophy Henn. Ted transforms a box into every vehicle he can think of; the story gives many opportunities for babies to join in on the zippy sound effects. Board book. In English.

Hush, Little Hero (2022) by Annie Bailey and illustrated by Dawn Lo. Lyrical rhyming text and dynamic illustrations celebrate heroic toddlers who leap over buildings of block towers, gather their stuffed-animal sidekicks, and protect the planet. Also great for pajama storytime. In English.

If You Were a Penguin (2022) by Florence Minor and illustrated by Wendell Minor. An upbeat, rhyming read-aloud about penguins. Also good for toddlers. In English.

Con Pollo: A Bilingual Playtime Adventure (2022) by Jimmy Fallon and Jennifer Lopez, and illustrated by Andrea Campos. A friendly chicken named Pollo plays and introduces Spanish vocabulary. Good for short attention spans. Bilingual.

Amazing Me! / ¡Soy sorprendente! series (2019) by Carol Thompson and Teresa Mlawer. Joyful books that encourage dance, music, and movement. Also good for toddlers. Bilingual.

Toddlers

Fox and the Box (2019) by Yvonne Iverson. A fox goes on an imagined sailing adventure; a lively story with punchy phonics for an engaging read-aloud. In English.

People Are Wild! (2022) by Margaux Meganck. An inviting story that turns the tables and asks what animals think of us. Starred reviews. In English.

Grace and Box (2021) by Kim Howard and illustrated by Megan Lotter. A cheerful ode to imaginative play in a refrigerator box; simple rhymes make for an easy read-aloud. In English.

Why Not You? (2022) by Ciarra and Russel Wilson, and illustrated by Jessica Gibson. A lyrical book that encourages kids to follow their big dreams. *SLJ* starred review. Toddlers and above. In English.

The Blur (2022) by Minh Lê and illustrated by Dan Santat. A superhero origin story about the adventures of childhood that speed by. *SLJ* starred review. Toddlers and above. In English.

What Shall We Play Now? (2022) by Taghreed A. Najjar and illustrated by Charlotte Shama. An adventure in imagination. Who can you become with

TIP:

Consider interactive books for baby storytime, such as lift-the-flap books, oversized books, or books that make sound.

TIP:

Exaggerate story emotions, and give each character their own voice.

TIP:

Be consistent by following the same storytime format every week. This helps children build confidence by predicting what comes next.

TIP:

Movement isn't just for songs! Add movements while reading stories too, such as by encouraging children to mimic the actions of a main character.

TODDLERS

one piece of cloth? Toddlers and above. In English.

Who Has Wiggle Waggle Toes? (2019) by Vicky Shiefman and illustrated by Francesca Chessa. A book that encourages shimmying, shaking, and stomping along. In English.

Speak Out, Leonard! ¡Habla, Leonard! (2022) by Jessie James and Tamara Anegón. A charming story about finding your voice and speaking up. Bilingual.

El cesto de los tesoros (2022) by Pedro Mañas and illustrated by Toni Galmés. A perfect story for encouraging imagination and creativity. In Spanish.

Let's Be Friends / Seamos amigos (2021) by René Colato Laínez and illustrated by Nomar Perez. Two students who speak different languages become quick friends. Simple text and engaging pictures. *Booklist* starred review. Bilingual.

Super Torta (2019) by Eric Ramos. A fun, silly book about a superhero who lets his imagination run wild. Bilingual.

Preschoolers

Mermaid Kenzie: Protector of the Deeps (2022) by Charlotte Watson Sherman and illustrated by Geneva Bowers. An uplifting story in poetic prose about a girl who imagines herself a mermaid and cleans up ocean plastic. Also works for a travel theme. In African American Vernacular English.

Adventures of Qai Qai (2022) by Serena Williams and illustrated by Yesenia Moises. An encouraging reminder that all children need support to help them believe in themselves. In English.

The Adventures of Robo-Kid (2022) by Diane deGroat. A boy's favorite superhero climbs out of a comic book and into the real world. *Kirkus* starred review. In English.

Come On In: There's a Party in This Book! (2022) by Jamie Michalak and illustrated by Sabine Timm. A bouncy, rhyming read-aloud that inspires children to stage their own stories with found materials. In English.

The Year We Learned to Fly (2022) by Jacqueline Wilson and illustrated by Rafael López. Imagination on a dreary day lifts a brother and sister up from their boredom. Starred reviews across the board. In English.

Show the World! (2022) by Angela Dalton and illustrated by Daria Peoples. A call to adventure through self-expression with poetic text. In English.

Isabel and Her Colores Go to School (2021) by Alexandra Alessandri and illustrated by Courtney Dawson. At her new school, speaking English just feels wrong to Isabel...until she employs her crayons and discovers there's more than one way to communicate. In English with Spanish words.

TIP:

To encourage imagination and language development, ask children to help you narrate wordless picture books.

TIP:

Also consider *Are We There Yet?* (2016) by Dan Santat. A boy goes on a long car ride to visit his grandmother and discovers time moves faster or slower depending on how bored he is. In English.

TIP:

Abuela (1997) by Arthur Dorros and illustrated by Elisa Kleven is a classic choice. A little girl and her grandmother fly over the streets of New York City. Available in separate Spanish and English editions; English edition has Spanish words.

TIP:

For slightly older children, consider *The Year We Learned to Fly / El año en que aprendimos a volar* (2022) by Jacqueline Woodson and illustrated by Rafael López.

PRESCHOOL

La aventura más grande / The Greatest Adventure (2019) by Tony Piedra. A young Latino boy and his grandfather transform a paper sailboat into a high seas adventure. Separate Spanish and English editions.

La canción del cambio / Change Sings (2022) by Amanda Gorman and illustrated by Loren Long. A lyrical celebration of change to inspire young activists. Starred reviews. Separate Spanish and English editions.

Paz (2021) by Miranda Paul and Baptiste Paul, and illustrated by Estelí Meza. A book that encourages peace through everyday interactions. Separate Spanish and English editions.

Imagine! (2018) by Raúl Colón. A joyful story about a boy's museum adventure and the new creative worlds it opens up. Wordless.

STORYTIME SONGS

Movement/Rhyme: Rain on the Grass

Great song for scarf play and sensory themes. Lyrics inspired by *So Tomorrow* Blog. See video from Jbrary on YouTube here: <https://bit.ly/3NTqtOT>

Rain on the grass (wave scarf low)
Rain on the trees (wave scarf high)
Rain on the roof (hold scarf overhead)
But not on me (drop the scarf)

Sun on the grass
Sun on the trees
Sun on the roof
But not on me

Leaves on the grass
Leaves on the trees
Leaves on the roof
But not on me

Song/Movement: Spinning Statues

From the album *Singing and Dancing Together* by Miss Nina. Lyrics reprinted with permission. Children spin and freeze like a statue when you say “freeze” and dance when the music plays.

Spinning statues is a game we like to play
You spin and spin and spin, then how you land is how you stay
Now you spin and spin and spin until I say freeze
Then when you hear the new music you dance how you please
FREEZE! And GO!

TIP:

Engage kids by pausing the story to ask open-ended questions. Mark pages with sticky notes so you remember to pause if you get off track.

STORYTIME SONGS

Now, faster!

Spinning statues is a game we like to play
You spin and spin and spin, then how you land is how you stay
You're a magic statue, imported from France
You freeze in silly ways, and that's also how you dance
FREEZE! Now GO!

Even faster!

Spinning statues is a game we like to play
You spin and spin and spin, then how you land is how you stay
Silly statues is also the name
The silliest of all is the winner of this game
FREEZE! And GO!

Song/Rhyme: With Imagination

To the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Piggyback lyrics by CSLP.

With imagination I can try
All the things under the sky
Over here and over there
In my mind and I can share
With imagination I can try
All the things under the sky

Song/Movement: El Juego Chirimbolo / The Thingamajig Game

Traditional song from Spain. Repeat faster and faster. Listen to melody from Melisa Bauer on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3rc1s8E>

El juego chirimbolo
¡Qué bonito es!
Un pie, otro pie,
Una mano, otra mano
Un codo, otro codo.
La nariz y el morro.

Direct English translation (does not rhyme):
The thingamajig game
How nice it is!
One foot, another foot,
One hand, another hand,
One elbow, another elbow,
The nose and the mouth.

Song/Movement: ¡Salta, Salta! / Jump, Jump!

Words and music by 123 Andrés on the album *!Uno, dos, tres, Andrés! En español y en inglés*. Partial lyrics reprinted with permission. Repeat with ¡más

TIP:

"Such a Simple Exercise" by Bobby Susser is another fun movement song to get children geared up for adventure time. See *Jbrary's* rendition on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3NS5LPk>

TIP:

Remember a display of books and media that fit your storytime theme, including extra copies of the stories you read aloud.

STORYTIME SONGS

arriba! (higher!).

Spanish version:

Salta, salta, un dos tres.
Salta, salta, un dos tres, ¡dale!
Salta, salta, un dos tres.
Salta, salta, con Andrés.

Mueve los pies, cuenta un dos tres.
Brinca, brinca, que eso no duele.
Vámos afuera, ¡apaga la tele!
Salta, salta, otra vez.
Cuenta conmigo, saltamos después.
Mueve los pies, mueve los pies, ¡un, dos, tres!

English version:

Jump, jump, one two three
Jump, jump, one two three
Jump, jump, jump, jump one two three.
Jump, jump, one, two, three, go!

Jump and leap and bounce with me.
Feeling the beat counting one, two, three.
Jump, jump, you gotta move your feet.
Let's go outside, turn off the TV!
Jump, jump, one more time.
We count together and jump really high,
Jump really high, jump really high... one, two, three, alright!

Song/Movement: Superhéroe

Great dance party song from the album *Fiesta Global* by Flor Bromley.
Partial lyrics reprinted with permission from Flor Bromley. Listen on Spotify
here: <https://bit.ly/3NTqMt1>

Cuando pienso en un superhéroe
Tiene que ser fuerte valiente y tenaz
Tiene que tener superpoderes
Para salvar al mundo del mal

Tienen una identidad secreta
Pero son como tu son como yo
Hasta que se ponens su super disfraz
Y su superego sale a la luz

Muchos superhéroes así se esconden
Pueden paracer gente normal

TIP:

"Soy una pizza / I Am a Pizza" from Charlotte Diamond is another fun bilingual song: <https://bit.ly/435abH1>

STAY AND PLAY

Pero hay un superhéroe en toto aquel
Que de corazón quiera ayudar

Call & response:

Superhéroe (Haz el bien)

Superhéro (Haz el bien)

Song/Movement: Lalalala

Bilingual movement song from the album *Fiesta Global* by Flor Bromley. Bilingual. Partial lyrics reprinted with permission from Flor Bromley. Listen on Spotify here: <https://bit.ly/44nF1f1>

Un nuevo día llevo
Que lindo el amanecer
Ayer fue un día difícil
Hoy vamos juntos a renacer

We are going to rise up and say
Nothing will get in our way
Afuera las malas vibras
Juntos podemos

Lalalala (chorus)

Un paso a la izquierda, un paso a la derecha
Step to the left, step to the right
Izquierda derecha (3x)
!Vamos!

Los amigos nos ayudan a ser cada día mejor
Friends are like little treasures
If you find one don't ever let go

Cuando se sientas muy solo
Mira a tu alrededor
Un amigo esta contigo para reír
Y cantar juntos

STAY-AND-PLAY

Babies: On Your Feet

Gather several pieces of material with different textures (such as a tea towel, fake fur, felt, a silky scarf, etc.). Hold baby upright and let their bare feet touch one of the fabrics, or let babies crawl over the different fabrics. Which texture do they prefer? This game enhances babies' sensory and bodily awareness.

Babies: Funny Faces

Make funny faces to help children learn to read facial expressions. Caregivers face babies towards them on their lap and make silly faces. Encourage them to make up stories to go along with their facial expressions.

Babies/Toddlers/Preschoolers: Move Like an Animal

After reading *We All Play* (2021) by Julie Flett, give cues for children to move like different animals (or do animal yoga poses). Use puppets to demonstrate. With babies, caregivers can move like the animal with babies in their arms.

Babies/Toddlers/Preschoolers: Bring Out the Bubbles

Caregivers show babies how to pop bubbles with their fingers, and toddlers and preschoolers can chase the bubbles down to pop them. Make it a contest for who can pop the most bubbles. Consider investing in a bubble machine for continuous bubbles and to minimize the risk of spreading germs.

Toddlers/Preschoolers: Empty Boxes

Empty boxes encourage creativity and thinking skills. Toddlers can crawl through large boxes or stack smaller ones. Be sure to carefully check all boxes for leftover materials and/or staples. Preschoolers can make buildings or forts.

TIP:

Learning to distinguish differences is a literacy activity!

DREAM IT UP! ADVENTURES IN IMAGINATION

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STORYTIME BOOKS

Babies

The Very Hungry Caterpillar's Forest Hide & Seek (2021) by Eric Carle. A lift-the-flap board book that follows an adventurous finger trail through the forest. In English.

Let's Go Outside! (Indestructibles) (2020) by Amy Pixton and illustrated by Ekaterina Trukhan. A movement-prompting book about going outside. Walk through the forest with babies and their families to explore trees, plants, animals, and the joys of the natural world. In English.

We All Play (2021) by Julie Flett. A joyous celebration of playtime among different animals. Starred reviews. Includes a glossary of Cree words. In English.

Pablo (2021) by Rascal. A simple, delightful story about a chick hatching bit by bit. Also good for toddlers. In English.

The Honeybee (2018) by Kirsten Hall and illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault. Vibrant verse that is buoyant and enthusiastic. Starred reviews. In English.

Zoom Rainforest Adventure (Zoom #4) (2021) by Susan Hayes and illustrated by Susanna Rumiz. A fun, interactive story about jungle animals with die-cut pages. In English.

Petra / Petra (2020) by Marianna Coppo. A humorous book about a rock who finds herself in changing circumstances. Separate Spanish and English editions.

Toddlers

Hike (2020) by Pete Oswald. A nearly wordless book about a hiking adventure that lets kids invent the narrative. In English.

Outside In (2020) by Deborah Underwood and illustrated by Cindy Derby. A celebration of nature with delightful rhymes. Toddlers and above. A Caldecott Honor book. In English.

Max's Rainforest Adventure (2019) by Hannah Jardine and illustrated by Zoe Warring. A slight story with easy dialogue about a tailed monkey exploring his rainforest home. In English.

Let's Go on a Hike! (2020) by Katrina Liu and illustrated by Heru Setiawan. A family hiking adventure filled with diversity and curiosity. In English or bilingual English/Chinese.

Wake Up, Color Pup (2019) by Taia Morley. A rhyming book that teaches colors through the story of a dog who collects them during the day. In English.

TIP:

Ask caregivers to write children's names on a nametag when they arrive.

TODDLERS

Wonder Walkers (2021) by Micha Archer. A fresh outlook on the splendors of nature, with beautiful collages and thought-provoking questions. A Caldecott Honor book. In English.

Look Out, Leonard! ¡Cuidado, Leonard! (2021) by Jessie James. An interactive book about a shrew family that moves to the jungle. Bilingual.

Milo + Niko (2022) by D. Guzmán. An energetic girl and a Bengal tiger have an adventurous romp in the rainforest. Also works for the imaginary adventure theme; also good for preschoolers. Bilingual.

Preschoolers

Leyla (2019) by Galia Bernstein. Tired of her large baboon family, Leyla runs away to the desert and befriends a lizard, who teaches her to be still and silent. In English.

Acorn Was a Little Wild (2022) by Jen Arena and illustrated by Jessica Gibson. The adventures of an acorn after he lets go of his big oak tree; great for STEM conversations about trees. In English.

The Hike (2019) by Alison Farrell. A sweet adventure story about exploring and observing a local forest. *Kirkus* starred review. In English.

The Nature Girls (2019) by Aki. A troupe of girls explores different biomes and meets all the cute animals therein. In English.

The Path (2022) by Bob Staake. An inspiring story about a child's unique path through various natural settings. Also good for older children. *SLJ* starred review. In English.

Emile and the Field (2022) by Kevin Young and illustrated by Chioma Ebinama. A little boy cherishes the nature in his neighborhood throughout the seasons. *The Horn Book* starred review. In English.

Berry Song (2022) by Michaela Goade. A little girl and her grandmother gather gifts from the earth; story centers around core Tlingit tenets. A Caldecott Honor book; starred reviews across the board. In English.

Brown Is Beautiful (2022) by Supriya Kelkar and illustrated by Noor Sofi. A multigenerational family on a hike and a lyrical appreciation of all the beautiful browns. In English.

Scaredy Squirrel Goes Camping / Ardilla Miedosa va de campamento by Mélanie Watt. A squirrel prefers to watch TV shows about camping. Separate Spanish and English editions.

La selva de Zonia / Zonia's Rain Forest (2021) by Juana Martinez-Neal. An adventure through the Peruvian rainforest with Zonia and her animal friends; a perfect read for young environmentalists. Separate Spanish and English editions.

TIP:

After reading a book, take time to talk about one or two big words that children might not be familiar with. Practice saying those words together and using them in sentences.

TIP:

For bilingual storytimes, not all parts of the program have to be done in both languages. You're having fun with language, not teaching a class.

TIP:

Provide QR codes to make it easy for parents to access digital copies, and consider making theme- or storytime-based lists.

TIP:

Don't be afraid to share nonfiction books! Paper clip pages to shorten the book, or only read a few facts that might interest your audience.

Cool Green / Verde fresco (2023) by Lulu Delacre. A book about trees from all over the world through the eyes of a landscaper teaching his granddaughter to be eco-conscious. Separate Spanish and English editions.

Viento viento / Wind Little Wind (2022) by Jorge Argueta et al. A poetic ode to wind that adventures through various habitats; through the lens of indigenous appreciation for the natural world. Trilingual (English, Spanish, and Nahuatl).

Cultivando a una artista / Growing an Artist (2022) by John Parra. A heartwarming story about a landscaper and his artistic son who go out on the job together. Starred reviews across the board. Separate Spanish and English editions; English edition has Spanish words.

STORYTIME SONGS

Rhyme/Flannelboard: Five Hungry Ants

Make a flannelboard with salad greens, tomatoes, a slice of confetti cake, a salt and pepper shaker, and 5 black felt ants with googly eyes. See video from Jbrary on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3g3uf5d>

Five hungry ants marching in a line,
Came upon a picnic where they thought they could dine.
They marched into the salad,
They marched into the cake,
They marched into the pepper...
Uh oh! That was a mistake!
A..a..a..choo! (toss one of the ants and continue counting down to zero)

Flannelboard/Rhyme: We're Going on a Bug Hunt

Make bugs and/or butterfly nets for a flannelboard. To the rhythm of "We're Going on a Bear Hunt." Lyrics adapted by CSLP from *Small Town Story Time* Lady Blog.

Chorus:

We're going on a bug hunt!
We're going to see some big ones.
What a sunny day! Are you ready? OK!

Verses:

Oh, my! A bee! A black & yellow bee, flying over the flowers. BUZZ
Oh, my! An ant! A tiny, black ant, crawling through the grass. SHH
Oh, my! A grasshopper! A big, green grasshopper, hopping around the tree. BOING
Oh, my! A butterfly! A pretty, orange butterfly, floating in the sky. WHOOSH
Oh, my! A spider! A big black spider, creeping on the tree. CREEP
Oh, my! A ladybug! A bright red ladybug, climbing up a flower. CLIMB
Oh, my! A roly-poly! A gray, armored roly-poly, hiding under a rock. ROLL

TIP:

Include movement songs in each storytime. Think scarves, egg shakers, or rhythm sticks.

STORYTIME SONGS

Song/Rhyme: I Am Walking

Piggyback lyrics from CSLP. To the tune of “Frère Jacques.”

I am walking, I am walking
In the woods, in the woods.
Camping, hiking, swimming
Camping, hiking, swimming
It's all good, it's all good.

Song/Rhyme/Movement: I Climb Mountains

Piggyback lyrics from CSLP. To the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

I climb mountains tall (stretch tall)
I swim the oceans deep (wave arms down low)
I run through meadows all day long (run in place)
And over logs I leap (leap)

Song/Rhyme: I Will Go Out Walking

To the tune of “I’m a Little Teapot.” Piggyback lyrics from CSLP.

I will go out walking, yes, I will
Over the meadow, up on a hill
When I run and play, I sa-a-ay (3 syllables)
Find adventure along the way

Song: Los Colores / The Colors

Words and music by 123 Andrés from the album *¡Uno, dos, tres, Andrés!* en español y en inglés. Reprinted with permission. Listen on YouTube here: <https://bit.ly/3XxIPbl>

Amarillo es el color del sol,
Nuestro sol, tan amarillo.
Dime ¿porqué, si estas conmigo,
Nos calienta más su brillo?

Verde es la vegetación,
De nuestro monte que es tan verde
Dime ¿porqué, si vuelvo a verte,
Aquel bosque se vuelve verde?

Azul es el color del mar,
Y del cielo que es tan azul.
Y ¿porqué cuando vuelves tú
El firmamento se pinta de azul?

Rojo es mi corazón,

TIP:

For an animals version of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat,” see Storytime Solidarity on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3CT04ud>

STORYTIME SONGS

Que late y late en mi interior.
¿Porqué las flores que yo recojo
Por ti se tiñen de color rojo?

Amarillo es el sol.
Verde la vegetación.
Azul es el mar.
Rojo es mi corazón.

English version:

Yellow is the color of the sun,
All day long, it is so yellow.
Tell me why when I see you
This warm fellow turns so yellow?

Green is the color of the grass,
And our forest that is so green.
Tell me why when you are close to me
Mother Nature seems so green?

Blue is the color of the ocean
And the sky that is so blue.
Tell me why when I think of you
The broad sky seems an endless blue?

Red is the color of my heart
That keeps a beat inside of me.
When I see you, why should it be,
That all my roses turn so red?

Yellow is the sun.
Green is the grass.
Blue is the ocean.
Red is my heart.

STAY-AND-PLAY

Babies/Toddlers: Peekaboo Plants and Animals

Print large images of different plants and animals (one per page) and laminate each page. Add a second laminated cover page (with a cut-out hole) to each image. Attach each set of two pages together with staples or book rings. Children lift the second page to reveal the plant or animal underneath.

Babies/Toddlers/Preschoolers: Yarn Spiderweb

Sit the group in a large circle on the floor or in chairs. Toss a ball of yarn across the circle again and again to create a yarn spiderweb. Preschoolers can join in on spiderweb creation, while babies and toddlers can crawl and play underneath.

Toddlers/Preschoolers: Feed the Spider

Create a web made out of masking tape between two dowel rods or garden stakes (outside) or on a flat wall using double-sided tape (inside). Provide pom-poms for them to throw “flies” at the web to feed the spider.

Toddlers/Preschoolers: Binoculars

Before the program, duct tape sets of two toilet paper rolls together, and punch one hole on either side of the set (for threading a strap). Set out stickers for children to decorate their binoculars. Encourage children to take them out into the rest of the library and report back on what they see.

Toddlers/Preschoolers: Finger Snakes

Wrap pipe cleaner around children’s fingers to make finger snakes. Preschoolers can add pom-pom heads and googly eyes to make other animals too. Premake the snakes, or hand out one pipe cleaner per child, and let caregivers do the wrapping for a perfect fit. Where do the finger snakes want to hide?

Preschoolers: Leaf Rubbing Art Print

Gather leaves of various shapes and sizes. After storytime, invite preschoolers to choose their favorites. On a table, place one leaf between two sheets of paper and color or watercolor over the leaf. Watch how it transfers to the paper.

TIP:

Encourage families to bring binoculars, and see if your local Audubon Society has Nature Adventure Packs for libraries, which include binoculars and bird/butterfly identification information.

TIP:

See Chapter 08: Standalone Printables for a Nature I-Spy worksheet.



Image source: Azita Frattarelli of Riverview Veterans Memorial Library, Riverview, MI

SOLVE THIS! PUZZLES, SCAVENGER HUNTS, AND MYSTERIES

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STORYTIME BOOKS

Babies

I Can See You (2022) by Rosemarie Avrana Meyok and illustrated by Michelle Simpson. An inviting book with simple rhymes about a mother and baby playing peek-a-boo using all five senses. Adorable illustrations show aspects of Intuit culture. In English.

Peek-a-Bruce (2019) by Ryan Higgins. A humorous seek-and-find story, with Bruce the bear hiding in a new location on every spread. In English.

Go, Go, Pirate Boat (2019) by Katrina Charman. A fun pirate adventure board book that is sung to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” Good for a treasure hunt theme. In English.

Whose Toes Are Those? (2019) & *Whose Knees Are These?* (2019) by Jabari Asim and illustrated by LeUyen Pham. Board books with interactive rhymes. In English.

¡Cuántos, cuántos pies! (2019) by Dr. Suess. A new Spanish translation of *The Foot Book*, and a puzzle for the youngest among us. Separate Spanish and English editions.

¡Hola, Perrito! / Puppy Peek-a-Boo (2021) from Cottage Door Press and illustrated by Anna Jones. Peek-a-boo holes in a board book. Separate Spanish and English editions.

Toddlers

Hugo and the Impossible Thing (2021) by Renée Felice Smith and Chris Gabriel, and illustrated by Sydney Hanson. A great read-aloud about woodland animals that work together to solve a maze through the mountains. Kirkus starred review. In English.

What About X? An Alphabet Adventure (2021) by Anne Marie Houppert and illustrated by Daniel Wiseman. An energetic alphabet read-aloud where X marks the spot. Also good for preschoolers. In English.

Treasure Isle (2021) by Catherine Corcoran and illustrated by Natalie Lundeen. Catchy rhymes in this adventure story about a boy and his parrot on their way to find where X marks the spot. In English.

We're Going on a Treasure Hunt (2019) by Kelly DiPucchio and illustrated by Jay Fleck. A rollicking read-aloud about animal pirates off to fetch some gold. Toddlers and above. In English.

Milo Is Missing Something (2021) by Vern Kousky. An aquatic mystery about an octopus explorer on an undersea adventure; simple and heartwarming story. In English.

TIP:

Encourage caregivers to bring a stuffie from home (or have extras on hand) so children can bounce them on their lap to mimic parental interaction. This is especially helpful for families with more than one young child.

TIP:

For an older title, consider *Hide and Seek* (2013) by Taro Gomi. Colorful illustrations camouflage common objects. The board book is best for one-on-one reading.

TIP:

Who Done It? (2015) and *Who Was That?* (2018) by Olivier Tallec are visual mysteries better for one-on-one reads than storytime, but they're great in a whodunit-themed display.

TODDLERS

One-osaurus, Two-osaurus (2021) by Kim Norman and illustrated by Pierre Collet-Derby. Rhyming storytime gold. Nine dinosaurs play a sing-song game of hide-and-seek, but something isn't adding up. Where's number ten? In English.

Where Is My Balloon? (2019) by Ariel Bernstein and illustrated by Scott Magoon. Vibrant art and comical text about Monkey, who loses his friend Owl's balloon. In English.

Preschoolers

The Boy Who Loved Maps (2022) by Kari Allen and illustrated by G. Brian Karas. An enchanting story about a young mapmaker who gets stumped when asked to draw "the perfect place." Great for both storytime and map-making programs. In English.

Secret, Secret Agent Guy (2021) by Kira Bigwood and illustrated by Celia Krampien. A bedtime mission with the code name Operation Lollipop; text is set to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," which encourages singing along. Multiple starred reviews. In English.

The Fort (2020) by Laura Perdew and illustrated by Adelina Lirius. A prince and a pirate learn to share. Great for a treasure hunt theme. In English.

Hornswoggled!: A Wacky Words Whodunit (2021) by Josh Crute and illustrated by Jenn Harney. A silly, engaging read-aloud that builds preschoolers' vocabulary. SLJ starred review. In English.

Mapping Sam (2018) by Joyce Hesselberth. An engaging read-aloud about an adventurous cat; filled with a variety of maps. Multiple starred reviews. In English.

Not an Alphabet Book: The Case of the Missing Cake (2020) by Eoin McLaughlin and illustrated by Marc Boutavant. This highly emotive mystery features an unreliable narrator; a perfect read-aloud for eliciting giggles. Kirkus starred review. In English.

La sombrería mágica / The Magic Hat Shop (2016) by Sonja Wimmer. A mysterious hat shop and a portal to inner treasures. Separate Spanish and English editions.

¿De dónde eres? / Where Are You From? (2019) by Yamile Saied Méndez and illustrated by Jaime Kim. More of an interpersonal puzzle about how to answer common questions that dark-skinned people are asked. Kirkus starred review. Separate Spanish and English editions.

TIP:

Also consider *Where Oliver Fits* (2017) by Cale Atkinson. A puzzle piece searches for this place; good for small groups. In English.

TIP:

For long books, create a flannelboard for a small section of the story, and invite families to check out the book to read at home over multiple sessions.

STORYTIME SONGS

Rhyme: Who Has the Very Last Puzzle Piece?

Before storytime, give one caregiver/child pair a missing piece to hide. During storytime, complete a large-format jigsaw puzzle with one piece missing. Then say the rhyme to the rhythm of “Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar?” For subsequent rounds, ask everyone to close their eyes while you redistribute the missing piece.

Who has the very last puzzle piece?

_____!

Who me?

Yes you!

Couldn't be!

Then who?

_____!

Song/Riddle: I See You

To the tune of “This Old Man.” Sing verses in which you obscure the identify of an animal or object. After each verse, ask children to solve the riddle.

Piggyback lyrics by CSLP. Add your own verses to fit your theme!

I see you

You're black and white

You moo, moo, moo all day and night

With a moo moo moo and chew chew too

I see you, you're black and white

What are you? You're a....COW!

I see you

You're wet and yellow

You're such a soft and feathery fellow

With a quack quack quack and water off your back

I see you, you're wet and yellow

What are you? You're a....DUCK!

Song/Rhyme: Old MacDonald's Mystery Animals

Sing “Old Macdonald Had a Farm” while using puppets. Hide puppets in a pillow case and slowly bring each animal out, showing only the tail or foot, and have children guess who it is! Bonus tip: Include a surprise “guest” who doesn't belong on a farm.

Song/Rhyme: Opposite Day

A great song to sing after a discussion about opposites. From the album *Singing & Dancing Together*. Lyrics reprinted with permission. Listen here from Miss Nina on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3NQt2L>

TIP:

Plan to be flexible, and try to have at least one backup of each storytime element (song, story, group activity). Allow yourself to deviate from your written plan to fit your audience.

TIP:

Incorporate basic American Sign Language. Even hearing babies understand words before they can speak them, and communicating through sign language improves communication during that stage.

STORYTIME SONGS

It is opposite day, it is a game that I play
 All that I say I mean the opposite today
 If I say black I mean white
 If I say loose I mean tight
 You get the hang of it; it's opposite day
 Tomorrow everything is back to normal
 Nothing fancy, everything's informal
 It's a fun way to spend the day
 Trying to say and do the opposite on opposite day.
 If I say day I mean night
 If I say wrong I mean right
 It's just that simple. It's opposite day.
 If I say fast I mean slow
 If I say hi I mean low
 Oh, no! It's opposite day today.
 Opposite day, everything okay. It's opposite day
 It is opposite day, it is a game that I play
 All that I say I mean the opposite today
 If I stay stop I mean go
 If I say yes, I mean no
 It's just that simply on opposite day.

Riddle: Cinco Varitas / Five Wands

A traditional riddle from Columbia. Listen on *Mama Lisa's World*: <https://bit.ly/3NoGnil>

Cinco varitas
 En un varital;
 Ni secas, ni verdes
 Se pueden cortar.
 Five wands
 In a wand grove;
 Neither dry, nor green
 They can be cut.
 (Answer: Los dedos! / fingers!)

STAY AND PLAY

Babies: Peek-a-Boo

Create a station with napkins or small towels, as well as items to place under them. Caregivers pull the napkin away and say "Peek a boo. I see a...!"

Babies/Toddlers/Preschoolers: Brown Bear ASL

Teach ASL for the colors and animals in the Bill Martin's *Brown Bear*, *Brown Bear* from ASL Kids Club on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3NSCmoj>

Toddlers/Preschoolers: Parachute Games

Do parachute waves, then a mushroom cloud for children to peek under. Next, add safe items such as large pom-poms, leaves, or bean bags. Children guess which items will bounce the highest and see how many they can catch.

Toddlers/Preschoolers: Bubble Mysteries

Another bubble game. Hide the bubble machine and ask toddlers and preschoolers to guess where the bubbles are coming from. How long before a bubble hits the floor? How many bubbles can they see? How many bubbles can they pop?

Preschoolers: Sight Word Scavenger Hunt

Create a simple sight word (or letter) scavenger hunt, and send children to different corners of the library to find them.

STAY CLOSE! ADVENTURES CLOSE TO HOME

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STORYTIME BOOKS

Babies

Leo, Rise And Shine! (2022) by Anna McQuinn and illustrated by Ruth Hearson. A bright and bouncy story about an energizing morning routine. In English.

Hands On! (2022) by Anne Wynter and illustrated by Alea Marley. A joyful rhyming book about a baby's first steps and explorations. In English.

City Baby (2021) by Laurie Elmquist and illustrated by Ashley Barron. A journey through a big city with spare text and vivid collages. *SLJ* starred review. In English.

My Party, Mi fiesta (World of ¡Vamos!) (2022) by Raúl the Third. A book about the fun activities at an energetic party. *SLJ* starred review. Bilingual.

Ten Little Birds, Diez Pajaritos (2021) by Andrés Salguero and illustrated by Sara Palacios. The popular song by 123 Andrés is brought to life in this story about with 10 silly birds who escape a lurking kitty. *SLJ* starred review. Bilingual.

How Are You?¿Como estas? (2018) by Angela Dominguez. A charming story with simple words about two giraffes who become friends. Bilingual.

La Bamba (2021) by Susie Jaramillo. A traditional song to get babies and toddlers moving. Bilingual.

Toddlers

Hudson and Tallulah Take Sides (2021) by Anna Kang and illustrated by Christopher Weyant. A nearly wordless argument-turn-budding-friendship between a dog and a cat with adjacent yards who venture out together. In English.

Stay, Benson! (2019) by Thereza Rowe. A playful story about a dog who takes adventures around the neighborhood as soon as his owner goes to school. In English.

The Roar (Hedgehog and Friends #4) (2022) by Eoin McLaughlin and illustrated by Polly Dunbar. Tortoise gets stuck, so his day of play doesn't go as planned. Forest friends come to help. In English.

Off-Limits (2021) by Helen Yoon. A child sneaks into an "off limits" home office; hijinks ensue. A charming, well-paced story for reading aloud. In English.

Blue Bison Needs a Haircut (2022) by Scott Rothman and illustrated by Pete Oswald. When Bison's usual barbershop is closed, he struggles with wanting something he can't have. In English

TIP:

Enthusiasm is contagious! Choose books and activities that you enjoy.

TIP:

Adding an activity between stories helps everyone to refocus. Try shaking the sillies out, or lead a movement song or rhyme.

TODDLERS

The Runaway Pea (2019) by Kjartan Poskitt and illustrated by Alex Willmore. A pea embarks on a perilous adventure through the kitchen; rhythmic language makes it great for reading aloud. In English.

Me gusta (2022) by Angela Dominguez. A multicultural bilingual book that celebrates familial adventures. Bilingual.

La casa de Lily y Milo (2022) by Pauline Oud. A silly, interactive story about a bunny and a mouse who move into a new house. In Spanish.

Preschoolers

Roxie Loves Adventure (2022) by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen and illustrated by Leeza Hernandez. Roxie becomes a changed pup after she gets locked out of the house; a funny call to adventuring outside your comfort zone. In English.

Early One Morning (2021) by Mem Fox and illustrated by Christine Davenier. A breezy story about a boy who journeys through a farm to get breakfast; text includes many questions to engage storytime audiences. In English.

Boogie Boogie, Y'all (2021) by C.G. Esperanza. A vibrant book with a groovy rhythm about appreciating the details of urban life. Multiple starred reviews. In English.

How to Eat a Book (2022) by Mrs. and Mr. MacLeod. Children are eaten by their books in this lyrical and engaging storytime winner. *SLJ* starred review. In English.

Kimchi, Kimchi Every Day (2022) by Erica Kim. A little girl's excitement around the Korean snack entices readers to join in. Great for cooking themes. *SLJ* starred review.

Fly (2022) by Brittany J. Thurman and illustrated by Anna Cunha. A little girl enlists the help of her friends to learn all the skills she needs to enter a double Dutch competition in this lyrical, uplifting story. In English.

Kick Push (2022) by Frank Morrison. A little boy with a passion for skateboarding seeks to fit into his new neighborhood; a celebration of the exhilaration of being yourself. In English.

Strollercoaster (2021) by Matt Ringer and illustrated by Raúl the Third and Elaine Bay. An energetic romp through the neighborhood with a quick-thinking father who thwarts his daughter's impending tantrum. In English with Spanish words.

La casita del esperanza / The Little House of Hope (2022) by Terry Catasús Jennings and illustrated by Raúl Colón. A family finds a safe new home in the United States in this age-appropriate exploration of immigration. An uplifting read-aloud. Separate Spanish and English editions.

TIP:

Encourage call and response, or have the children repeat after you for emphasis. (Ex: Red. Red! Rojo. Rojo!)

PRESCHOOL

Un día con papá / Owen's Day with Daddy (2022) by Jerry Ruff and illustrated by Davilyn Lynch. A warm story about the adventures of a father and son; great for helping children accept new siblings. Separate Spanish and English editions.

El Cukey Is Scared, Too! (2021) by Donna Barba Higuera and illustrated by Juliana Perdomo. A little boy is nervous about starting school in a new place; he and his monster confront their fears together. Based on Mexican folklore. In English with Spanish words.

Día de disfraces / Dress-Up Day (2022) by Blanca Gómez. A delightful story about a little girl who wears her bunny costume to school one day late. Multiple starred reviews. Separate Spanish and English editions.

Entonces llega el verano / And Then Comes Summer (2021) by Tom Brenner and illustrated by Jaime Kim. Lyrical text and cheery illustrations in this celebratory tribute to summer adventures. *Kirkus* starred review. Separate Spanish and English editions.

Mi ciudad canta / My City Sings (2022) by Cynthia Harmony and illustrated by Teresa Martínez. After an earthquake, a little girl watches a neighborhood in Mexico come together in this sweet story about resilience. Separate Spanish and English editions; English edition has Spanish words throughout.

STORYTIME SONGS

Song/Rhyme: Book Adventure

To the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." Piggyback lyrics from CSLP.

I can play outside,
I can read a book.
I can find adventure here and everywhere I look.

Song/Movement: My Backyard

To the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Piggyback lyrics from CSLP.

Playing in my backyard my backyard
My backyard
Playing in my backyard
So many things to do
Watch the birds and flap my wings
Flap my wings, flap my wings
Watch the birds and flap my wings
So many things to do.

Verses:

Pick up twigs and put them back down

TIP:

Repetition is key for engagement, so choose songs and rhymes to repeat at each storytime, and sing each song at least twice. Add a new song or rhyme occasionally to keep things fresh.

STORYTIME SONGS

Dig in the dirt and plant a seed
Play a game and run all around

Song/Movement: I'm a Dump Truck

To the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot." See video from Jbrary on YouTube here: <https://bit.ly/3PxVppj>

I'm a little dump truck full of rocks (arms wide)
Here is my engine, here is my box (arms in front, then arms in back)
When the crew is ready hear me shout (hands around mouth)
Pull the lever and dump me out (pull lever in air)
Shhhhhhhh (lean back, point both thumbs behind you)

I'm a great big dump truck full of rocks
Here is my engine, here is my box
When the crew is ready hear me shout (hands around mouth)
Pull the lever and dump me out (pull lever in air)
Shhhhhhhh (lean back, point both thumbs behind you)

Song/Rhyme: Vamos a Cantar / Sing Now with Me

Words and music by 123 Andrés from the album *Arriba Abajo*. Reprinted with permission. Listen on YouTube here: <https://bit.ly/3pvCWz6>

Vamos a cantar una nueva canción.
Vamos a cantar la con el corazón.
Do re mi fa sol la si do
Vamos a bajar únete a mi voz.
Do si la sol fa mi re do
Vamos a cantar una nueva canción.
Vamos a baja únete a mi voz.

Here's a brand new song, sing it now with me.
Just follow you heart and you'll find your key.
Do re mi fa so la ti do
Follow me back down this sweet melody.
Do ti la so fa mi re do
Here's a brand new song, sing it now with me.
Follow me back down this sweet melody.

A la Rueda, Rueda / To the Wheel, Wheel (Canción de Corro / Circle Game)

Nursery rhyme from Cuba. Children hold hands while singing and turning in a circle. At the end, everyone lies down. English is a direct translation that does not rhyme. Listen via *Mama Lisa's World* here: <https://bit.ly/3r9yPsZ>

A la rueda, rueda
De pan y canela.
Dame un besito
Y vete para la escuela.

STORYTIME SONGS

Si no quieres ir,
Acuéstate a dormir.

To the wheel, wheel
of bread and cinnamon.
Give me a kiss
and go to school.
If you don't want to go,
Lay down to sleep.

Song/Lapsit: Cuando Voy a Casa de Peña

Nursery rhyme and lapsit from Mexico. Listen via Mama Lisa's World here: <https://bit.ly/447jVC0>

Cuando voy a casa de Peña (move baby's legs as if walking)
Con la patita le hago la seña (raise one leg)
Cuando voy a casa de Juan (resume walking)
Con la patita le toco el zaguán* (kick one leg gently on "le toco el zaguán")

Direct English translation (for reference):
When I go to Peña's house, with my little leg I make a sign,
When I go to John's house, with my little leg I touch the hallway.

STAY AND PLAY

Babies/Toddlers/Preschoolers: Hello, Neighbor

Who's sitting next to you? Who do you know in the room, and who do you not know? Encourage children to wave or say hello to each other.

Toddlers/Preschool: Puzzle Words

Laminate photos of your library or other buildings in your community, and add labels underneath in big letters. Cut the photos in half. Toddlers or preschoolers put the pieces together to form the word.

Toddlers/Preschoolers: Library Jumble

Set out multiples of various objects. Then ask everyone to find one of a specific kind of object. For example, everyone find a stuffed animal; find a toy vehicle; find a book with an animal on the cover. This is a great lesson on sharing and patience. If multiple children go after the same toy, reassure them that there are enough for everyone.

Preschoolers: Find Letters

Ask children to look around the room and tell you where they see letters (such as on wall signs). What's the letter? What words start with that letter? Go around the circle so every child has a turn. Games and songs emphasize the importance of active listening, sharing, and taking turns. It is also great for illustrating opposites or taking outside.

DIM THE LIGHTS!

ADVENTURES IN THE DARK

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STORYTIME BOOKS

Babies

Hush, Little Hero (2022) by Annie Bailey and illustrated by Dawn Lo. This lyrical rhyming book about heroic toddlers is a solid but mellow choice for pajama storytime. In English.

Shhh! The Baby's Asleep (2021) by JaNay Brown and illustrated by Elissambura. A silly story in rhyming couplets about a big family trying to stay quiet. Also good for toddlers and preschoolers. SLJ starred review. In English.

I'm Still Up! (2022) by Antoinette Portis. A soothing and humorous board book about a baby who stays up late. Great for PJ storytime or a nighttime theme. In English.

Goodnight, Good Dog; Buenas noches, perrito bueno (2020) by Mary Lyn Ray and illustrated by Rebecca Malone. Another PJ storytime choice that celebrates nighttime sights and sounds. Pace slows intentionally as the book ends. Kirkus starred review. Bilingual.

Toddlers

Gray Fox in the Moonlight (2023) by Isaac Peterson. A fox walks through a nighttime forest before being called home to her den of kits. Good for late summer transitions into fall. In English.

Zoom Space Adventure (Zoom #1) (2020) by Susan Hayes and illustrated by Susanna Rumiz. An interactive board book with peek-a-boo holes that will keep kids guessing. Kirkus starred review. In English.

Knight Owl (2022) by Christopher Denise. A charming blend of whimsy and medieval heroism in this book about an owl who goes to knight school. Booklist starred review; Caldecott Honor book. In English.

Tiny T. Rex and the Very Dark Dark (2020) by Jonathan Stutzman and illustrated by Jay Fleck. A great read-aloud about an adventurous backyard campout that gets a little spooky. In English.

Night Animals Need Sleep Too (2020) by Gianna Marino. A midday bedtime book that will keep readers laughing. In English.

Wake Up, Freight Train (2022) by Danna Smith and illustrated by Jon Anderson. Witty rhymes in a soothing rhythm; filled with train facts and adorable sleepy animals. In English.

Star Fishing (2022) by Sang-gun Kim. A dreamy yet adventurous lullaby for the restless. In English.

The Moonlight Zoo (2022) by Maudie Powell-Tuck and illustrated by Karl James Mountford. Eva looks for her missing cat on an adventure through the midnight zoo. In English.

TIP:

Adapt any story to fit your time and audience. You can skip words and even whole sections.

TIP:

Use clipart to make visual schedule cards for storytime. These help families and children anticipate what comes next, and are especially helpful when working with neurodivergent children.

TODDLERS

Before the World Wakes (2022) by Estelle Laure and illustrated by Paola Zakami. Mellow, poetic prose and a joyous celebration of daybreak; good for “waking” children back up after PJ storytime. In English.

La noche en que tú naciste (2015) by Nancy Tillman. A new Spanish translation of *On the Night You Were Born*, a simple rhyming story about the wonder of new life. In Spanish.

Preschoolers

Bowwow Powwow (2018) by Brenda J. Child and illustrated by Jonathan Thunder. A delightful story about a joyous powwow and the “bowwow powwow” that comes later in a little girl’s imagination. In English.

The Nice Dream Truck (2021) by Beth Ferry and illustrated by Brigitte Barrager. A whimsical, upbeat bedtime story filled with adventure and imagination. In English.

The Froggies Do Not Want to Sleep (2021) by Adam Gustavson. The froggies would rather hop, play the accordion, and sing opera while being shot out of a cannon, amongst other things. A great pajama storytime choice. *Kirkus* starred review. In English.

The Brave, Bold Bunny (2020) by Beth Ferry and illustrated by Chow Hon Lam. A bunny sneaks off into the night and then delights in returning home. In English.

Night Lunch (2022) by Eric Fan and illustrated by Dena Seiferling. A rhythmic story about a midnight lunch rush of anthropomorphic animals; a PJ storytime choice that will leave kids heading towards the kitchen rather than to sleep. In English.

Nigel and the Moon (2022) by Antwan Eady and illustrated by Gracey Zhang. A glowing tale about self-acceptance and dreaming big. In English.

Stella Keeps Up the Sun (2022) by Clothilde Ewing and illustrated by Lynn Gaines. A joyful and industrious little girl tries to keep up the sun so she doesn’t have to go to bed; also a good introduction to time zones. In English.

Bonnie’s Rocket (2022) by Emeline Lee and Alina Chau. An engaging story about a little girl who follows in her engineer father’s footsteps and builds a rocket. Includes a craft project. In English.

Astro Girl (2019) by Ken Wilson-Max. Vibrant paintings and conversational text in this story about a girl who wants to be an astronaut; her father is the primary caregiver and her mother has a career in STEM. In English.

Pruette and Soo (2022) by Nancy Viau and illustrated by Jorge Lacera. An engaging story about making friends with those from other planets. In English.

La tímida Willow (2022) / *Shy Willow* (2021) by Cat Min. A bunny who lives in a mailbox overcomes her shyness to take a trip to the moon to deliver a letter.

TIP:

Remind families that audiobooks are also fun to listen to at home, and make recommendations for different age groups.

PRESCHOOL

A dreamlike story with luminous artwork. Separate Spanish and English editions.

La víspera de orgullo / 'Twas the Night Before Pride (2022) by Joanna McClintick and illustrated by Juana Medina. This lyrical celebration of diverse queer families is an excellent Pride month choice. Uses non-binary pronouns. Age-appropriate rhymes and bright illustrations. Separate Spanish and English editions.

TIP:

Use carpet tiles so everyone has their own space during storytime. Carpet stores may donate remnants at low cost.

STORYTIME SONGS

Song/Movement: Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

Children hold stuffies and raise them into the air during blast-off. Listen to melody from King County Library System here: <https://bit.ly/3r75PSv>

Zoom, zoom, zoom
We're going to the moon
Zoom, zoom, zoom
We're going to the moon
If you want to take a trip,
Climb aboard my rocket ship
Zoom, zoom, zoom
We're going to the moon
In 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
BLAST OFF

Verses:

Far, far, far, we're going to the stars
Fun, fun, fun, we're going to the sun

Song/Movement: Here We Go Loopty Loo

Great movement song. Sing faster and faster for added challenge. Listen to version from Kidsongs on Youtube here: <https://bit.ly/3Xtlman>

Here we go loopty loo
Here we go loopty li
Here we go loopty loo
All on a Saturday night

Here we go way down low
Here we go way up high
Here we go way down low
We really know how to fly

Here we go round and round
Here we go fast and slow
Here we go round and round

STEM FACT:

Why is it dark in space?
There's no atmosphere to scatter light, so light from the sun travels in a straight line without scattering; all the colors stay together. This is why, in space, the sun looks like a white ball with dark, empty space around it.

STORYTIME SONGS

Oh what a great way to go

Here we go up and down
Here we sit side by side
Here we go up and down
Oh what a wonderful ride

Rhyme/Flannel Board: Five Glowing Jellyfish

For an underwater glow theme, make felt jellyfish out of glow-in-the-dark fleece and googly eyes. Lyrics from CSLP.

Five glowing jellyfish sat upon a rock.
One fell off and had a shock. Aaaaaah!
(Repeat four, three, two, one, glowing jellyfish)
No glowing jellyfish sat upon a rock
One climbed back on and gave a knock. Knock.
(Repeat for one, two, three, four, five)

Song: Luna, Lunera, Cascabelera

A nursery rhyme from Peru. The English version (not an exact translation) is singable. Listen on *Mama Lisa's World* here: <https://bit.ly/46Gsohp>

Luna, lunera, cascabelera,
Cinco pollitos y una ternera,
Sal solecito, caliéntame un poquito,
Por hoy y por mañana por toda la semana.

Moody, thoughtless moon,
Five chicks, a calf and a loon,
Come out little sun, warm me like no one,
For the dawn and the morning, for the night and the evening.

Song: De 1 a 10 / From 1 to 10

A gently lullaby that's great for PJ storytime. Words and music by 123 Andrés on the album *La luna*. Lyrics reprinted with permission.

Una manta	One blanket
Dos palomas	Two doves
Tres estrellas que se asoman	Three stars peeking through
Cuatro gatos	Four cats
Cinco cuervos	Five ravens
Seis zapatos medio sueltos	Six shoes with laces untied
Siete sueños	Seven dreams
Ocho flores	Eight flowers
Nueve nubes de colores	Nine colorful clouds
Diez abrazos	Ten hugs
Diez abrazos	Ten hugs

STORYTIME SONGS

Diez abrazos sólo tuyos	Ten hugs only for you
Vámonos de vuelta al uno	Let's go back to one
Diez	Ten
Nueve	Nine
Ocho	Eight
Siete	Seven
Seis	Six
Cinco	Five
Cuatro	Four
Tres	Three
Dos	Two
Uno	One

STAY AND PLAY

Babies/Toddlers: Sleeping Stuffies Wake Up

Hand out stuffies or ask caregivers to bring them from home. Tuck the stuffies in, then ask another staff member turn out the lights. Wait a minute, then turn the lights back on and say “Stuffies, wake up!”

Toddlers/Preschoolers: Glow Stripe Dance Party

Pass out glow sticks, or add glow strips to clothing and turn out the lights. Caregivers dance with babies, and stay on hand to encourage toddlers and preschoolers who might be afraid of the dark.

Toddlers/Preschoolers: Create a Fort

Make several “caves” out of two chairs together and a blanket draped over the top. Optionally, decorate the caves with fun sensory toys and lights. Encourage children to go under and explore!

Toddlers/Preschoolers: Fun with Flashlights

Cut out animal silhouettes and glue them to sticks or straws. Lower the lights, and have children or caregivers shine lights on the silhouettes to project them onto the wall.