

BABIES

READ

In English

Animal Babies (2018) by Charles Fuge. Simple rhymes with animal babies and unlikely pairs of friends.

Big Green Crocodile: Rhymes to Say and Play (2020) by Anne Newberry and Caroline Rabei. This book of sixteen original play-rhymes for babies and toddlers is a starred SLJ selection.

From 1 to 10 (2019) by Mies Van Hout. A counting book of animal body parts that includes early literacy tips for caregivers.

Peek-a-Who? (2000) by Nina Laden. Keep babies and toddlers guessing and giggling with hidden animals and simple rhymes.

Tails (2017) by Matthew Van Fleet. Irresistible book of interactive rhymes. Touchable tails make this book slightly better for one-on-one than storytime.

We've All Got Bellybuttons! (2005) by David Martin and Randy Cecil. Baby animals play with all the ways their bodies move. A rhythmic romp that ends with a ticklefest.

Bilingual/Spanish

Little Elephants/Elefantitos (2017) by Susie Jaramillo. Bilingual counting book based on "Un elefante se balanceaba." (Bilingual)

Un elefante (2018) by Patty Rodriguez, Ariana Stein, and Citlali Reyes. Inspired by "Un elefante se balanceaba," one of the most beloved nursery rhymes in Latin America, this book introduces bilingual counting for babies. (Bilingual)

SING

Bounce: Elephants in the Bath Tub

Simple bounce for babies. For older children, this song can also be done as a felt board. See video and felt patterns from Jbrary here: <https://bit.ly/2zML-G9F>

One elephant in the bathtub

Going for a swim

Knock, knock

(clap twice)

Splash, splash

(slap knees twice)

Come on in!

(motion with both hands to come in)

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Five elephants in the bathtub

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Talk to babies, even if they cannot talk back! Babies whose parents talk to them know about 300 more words by the age of two than babies whose parents rarely talk to them. Asking questions, pointing to objects, and describing what you are doing all help baby's language development.

BABIES

Going for a swim

Knock, knock

(clap twice)

Splash, splash

(slap knees twice)

And they all fell in!

(knock the felt pieces down)

Fingerplay/Rhyme: La Hormiguita

Two similar versions of a classic rhyme.

Andaba una hormiguita

(walk two fingers over clenched hand)

Juntando su leñita.

(walk fingers slowly up baby's arm)

De pronto cayó una nievecita

(float fingers down)

Y corrió rápido a su casita.

(run fingers towards baby's neck and

tickle)

Esta hormiguita

(walk two fingers over clenched hand)

Cortaba su leñita.

(walk fingers slowly up baby's arm)

Cayó un aguacero

(rain fingers down)

Y se metió a su casita.

(run fingers towards baby's armpit)

Bounce/Movement: Un Elefante Se Balanceaba

Sometimes “*se balanceaba*” is replaced with “*se columpiaba*,” but the song has the same meaning either way. As caregivers and babies stand in a circle, one caregiver/baby pair walks into the circle at a time as you count with your fingers until *la tela de araña* breaks. See Toddler Printables in this chapter for lyrics and clip art for caregivers to take home. Audio version from K Librarian here: <https://bit.ly/2Zsila7>

Un (1) elefante se balanceaba

Sobre la tela de la una araña

Como veia que resistia

Fue a llamar a otro elefante.

Dos (2) elefantes se balanceaban

Sobre la tela de una araña

Como veian que resistia fueron

A llamar a otro elefante.

Tres (3)...

Cuatro (4)...

Cinco (5)...

Spanish/English

la hormiguita = the ant

TIP:

Ask the group which version of “La hormiguita” they like better, then sing that one again!

TIP:

See Chapter 06: Toddlers for a parachute version of “Los elefantes.”

BABIES**PLAY / TAKE HOME****Balancing Elephants**

Tape lines to the floor for caregivers to balance along while they swing their babies in their arms like elephant trunks.

Aquarium Bags

Put blue hair gel (or water with blue food coloring) into heavy-duty freezer bags. Add flat ocean toys (fish, sharks, starfish, etc.) or ocean shapes cut out of flat kitchen sponges. Duct tape to reinforce the zippered seals. For small groups, make a bag for each baby to play with.