

BABIES

READ

In English

Baby Animals (2017) by Amy Pixton and Stephen Lomp. Bright pictures and few words make this a good read to supplement with open-ended questions.

I Kissed the Baby! (2004) by Mary Murphy. Ideal for little eyes and ears, this book of baby animals has high-contrast pictures and a singsong story.

Jump! (2010) by Scott M. Fischer. In this lively, rhyming read-aloud that builds on repetition, caregivers lift their babies in the air with every “jump!”

Love You Head to Toe (2019) by Ashley Barron. Human babies get compared to baby animals on every page, with actions (e.g., stretch like a starfish, reach like a kitten) that caregivers can use as movement prompts during lapsit.

Mama Mama (1999) by Jean Marzollo and Laura Regan. A baby read-aloud likely to be in most collections; caregivers can mimic actions along with the book.

Overboard! (2006) by Sarah Weeks and Sam Williams. A bunny throws everything on the floor. Caregivers can tip their babies to the side with every “overboard!”

Spider on the Floor (2002) by Raffi. A board book version of a silly, high-energy song with repetition, rhythm, and rhyme.

Bilingual/Spanish

¿Donde esta la oveja verde? Where Is the Green Sheep? (2010) by Mem Fox and Judy Horacek. Lively rhymes in both Spanish and English. (Bilingual)

How Are You? Como estas? (2018) by Angela Dominguez. A tale of friendship about two endearing giraffes, one English-speaking and one Spanish-speaking, who ask after the feelings of a baby ostrich. (Bilingual)

La Madre Goose: Nursery Rhymes for los Niños (2016) by Susan Middleton Elya and Juana Martinez-Neal. Classic English favorites with modern Latino twists and interlingual rhymes. (English with Spanish words)

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Baby storytimes are usually best for babies who are not yet walking. Suggest to caregivers that active 12-month-olds might enjoy toddler storytime more.

BILINGUAL STORYTIME TIP:

If library staff do not speak Spanish, consider enlisting storytime ambassadors, fully bilingual caregivers who can welcome Spanish-speaking families to storytime and answer any questions they might have.

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SING

Fingerplay: Alternative Itsy, Bitsy Spider

Put baby on the floor and pretend they are the water spout. Caregivers climb their legs and arms with their fingers. When the rain comes down, the spider goes away; when the sun comes out, the spider goes up. Extra verse ideas here: <https://bit.ly/3boLvN>

The incy, wincy spider climbed up the water spout
(climb with finger and thumb)
Down came the rain and washed the spider out
(rain fingers down)
Out came the sunshine and dried up all the rain
(palms out, separate hands)
So the incy, wincy spider climbed up the spout again
(climb up again)

Verses:

The teeny, tiny spider... (whisper)	(one finger on one finger)
The big, fat spider... (loud)	(clap hands together)

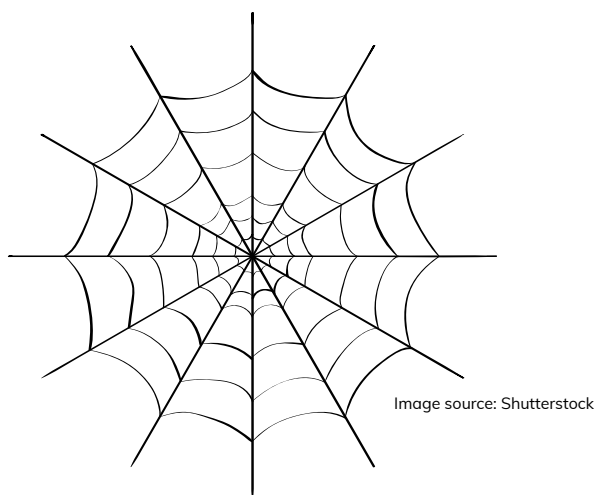


Image source: Shutterstock

Fingerplay: La Araña Chiquitita

Finger movements the same as for “The Itsy, Bitsy Spider.”

La araña chiquitita
Subió, subió, subió
Vino la lluvia
Y se la llevó
Salió el sol
Y todo lo secó
Y la araña chiquitita
Subió, subió, subió

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Babies mirror adult facial expressions and feelings, so encourage caregivers to exaggerate feelings and moods in a book or song. Varying your voice level while singing is also a great way to grab their attention.

TIP:

For another fun spider lapsit, adapt Rob Reid’s fingerplay “Spider Here, Spider There” in *Animal Shenanigans* (2015): Put one hand on baby’s shoulder, then the other. Wiggle your hands, and tickle the baby.

English/Spanish:

spider = la araña

BILINGUAL STORYTIME TIP:

If you are not a Spanish speaker (and have not enlisted the help of a storytime ambassador), avoid confusion by not advertising your storytime as fully bilingual. Only promote a bilingual storytime if you can conduct basic small talk and answer questions from Spanish-speaking caregivers.

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Fingerplay: Este Marrano

When singing this traditional Colombian song, squeeze each fingertip as you recite this rhyme, starting with the little finger.

Este marrano compró un huevito.
 Este lo partió.
 Este lo cocinó.
 Este le echó la sal.
 Y este pícaro gordo se lo comió.

Spanish/English:

el marrano = pig

PLAY / TAKE HOME

Floor Spiderweb

Make a large spiderweb and/or spider on the floor out of masking tape. Babies or toddlers crawl or walk over the top, trying not to touch the web or get caught by their caregivers. Alternatively, trace a large spiderweb with glue and hang it on the wall for babies to feel.

Animal Sounds

Using a variety of plastic or stuffed animals, ask caregivers to play with babies by making animal sounds. They can hide the animals under a carpet, parachute, or box for babies to find. Demonstrate asking open-ended questions during play. For example, where is the animal? What is it doing? What does it say? See Printables for the Bilingual Animal Sounds (Spanish/English) take home.

Sticky Bugs

Attach wide strips of tape or contact paper to the wall sticky-side out. Add a spider to the wall for a spiderweb theme. Place items in a bin nearby and invite babies and toddlers to stick items to the wall (construction paper shapes, plastic balls, pom-poms, etc.). Can be modified for any animal theme.



Image source: Alice Mackey of Marysville Public Library

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Floor games are also great tummy time opportunities for babies, which is important for strengthening shoulder, arm, and hand muscles.

TIP:

To minimize printing, project take-home information for caregivers on a large screen and ask them to take a picture with their phones.

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

All languages attribute slightly different sounds to animals, so you can talk about the different sounds we hear in Spanish and English. For example, a dog says “woof” in English and “guau” in Spanish. Animal sounds in any language help children to connect meaning in the sounds they hear.

RESIZABLE DOWNLOAD

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

What Do the Animals Say?



STORYTIME TIP:

If you lead the group in making animal sounds, you can also print and laminate animal sound cards as cues for ESL caregivers. See the downloadable image file What Do the Farm Animals Say? in Chapter 05: Babies.

PRINTABLE

Bilingual Animal Sounds

Animal	English	Español*
cat / el gato	meow	miau
dog / el perro	ruff ruff	guau guau
horse / el caballo	neigh	jiiiiii, iiiiou
bee / la abeja	buzz	bzzz
duck / el pato	quack	cuac cuac
frog / el pollito	ribbit	cruá, cruá, berp, croac
crow / el cuervo	caw	cruaaac-cruaaac
lion / el león	roar	grrrr, grgrgr
rooster / el gallo	cock-a-doodle-doo	kikiriki, ki-kiri-ki
goat / la cabra	b-a-a-a-a	bee bee
sheep / la oveja	b-a-a-a-h	bee, mee
chick / el pollito	chirp	pío pío
cow / la vaca	moo	mu, muuu
turkey / el pavo	gobble	gluglú
pig / el cerdo	oink	oinc-oinc
dove / la paloma	coo coo	cucurrucucu

*Animal sounds in Spanish vary slightly by country.