

# STORYTIME SONGS

## Greeting/Fingerplay: If You Want To Hear a Story

To the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It.”

If you want to hear a story, clap your hands.

If you want to hear a story, clap your hands.

If you want to hear a story, really want to hear a story

If you want to hear a story, clap your hands.

## Song/Rhyme: La Mar

A fun song for vowel practice. You repeat the same lines, changing to a new vowel with each repetition. Video from Brenda Feaster of Friendswood Public Library, Friendswood, TX. (starts at 4:05). Link: <https://bit.ly/2SBbLLN>

*La mar estaba serena / The sea was serene*

*Serena estaba la mar / Serene was the sea*

*La mar estaba serena, serena estaba la mar*

(Spoken: Con “a”) *La mar astaba sarana, sarana astaba la mar*

(Spoken: Con “e”) *Le mer estebe serene, serene estebe la mer*

(Spoken: Con “i”) *Li mir istibi sirini, sirini istibi li mir*

(Spoken: Con “o”) *Lo mor ostobo sorono, sorono ostobo lo mor*

(Spoken: Con “u”) *Lu mur ustubu surunu, surunu ustubu lu mur*

## Song/Movement: We Shake Our Fins Together

For babies, caregivers sway them along with the song. Toddlers and pre-schoolers can wave scarves. To the tune of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow.”

We shake our fins together

We shake our fins together

We shake our fins together

Because it’s fun to do

We shake them way up high

We shake them way down low

We shake them in the middle

Because it’s fun to do

### TIP:

Songs and movement help children to remember concepts such as numbers, sizes, and shapes.

## STORYTIME SONGS

**Song/Spanish: Sirenita**

Sing to the tune of “Frère Jacques.” Video from Brenda Feaster of Friendswood Public Library, Friendswood, TX. Link (song begins at [6:07]): <https://bit.ly/2SBbILN>

*Sirenita, sirenita*

Where are you? ¿*Donde estas?*

*Estoy* under the bridge, I am under the *puente*

On a rock! ¡*En la roca!*

**Rhyme: Elena la Ballena**

*Elena la ballena / Elena the whale*

*Es grande y es buena / Is big and unafraid*

*Nada por los mares / She swims the sea*

*Como una sirena / Like a mermaid*

**Song/Movement: Swing Me Over the Ocean (Babies/Toddlers)**

Caregivers swing or sway their babies while sitting or standing. On the second sing, add in some Spanish words. Video from Jbrary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqTvfpllz2g>

Swing me over the ocean (swing to the right)

Swing me over the sea (swing to the left)

Swing me over the garden (swing to the right)

And have me home for tea (cuddle in the middle)

Swing me over *el oceano*

Swing me over *la mar*

Swing me sobre *el jardín*

And *llevame a casa para el té*

**Song: Have You Ever Seen a Mermaid?**

You can also switch out the mermaid for any other sea creature. Lyrics from Barberton Public Library. To the tune of “Have You Ever Seen a Lassie.” Video from Sidnie Srader of Jones Public Library, Dayton, TX: <https://youtu.be/LDAmy46b6Kc>

Have you ever seen a mermaid, a mermaid, a mermaid

Have you ever seen a mermaid swim this way and that

Swim this way and that way, swim this way and that way?

Have you ever seen a mermaid swim this way and that?

**TIP:**

To make any early literacy song bilingual, simply replace the English words with Spanish ones! (This works best for internal rather than end rhymes.)

## STORYTIME SONGS

**Rhyme: Color Mermaids Flannel Board**

This rhyme makes for a fun flannel board (see Printables for a mermaid silhouette to trace or print). Lyrics from Barberton Public Library.

Five little mermaids swam near the shore  
 The blue one swam away; then there were four.  
 Four little mermaids went into the big sea.  
 The pink one swam away; then there were three.  
 Three little mermaids wondering what to do.  
 The green one swam away; then there were two.  
 Two little mermaids were having so much fun,  
 When the orange one swam away; there was only one.  
 One little mermaid just wanted to be a hero.  
 The purple one swam to save her friend; and then there were zero.

**Rhyme/Movement: Ocean Stretching**

Name any tall or small ocean creature after each line. You can also use stretchy bands for the children to pull and crinkle into a ball.

When I stretch up, I feel so tall (like seaweed!) (Reach high and sway)

When I bend down, I feel so small (like a shrimp!) (Bend down)

Taller, taller, taller, taller. (Reach up high and higher)

Smaller, smaller, smaller, smaller. (Get low on the floor)

Into a tiny ball. (Sit down)

**TIP:**

An album worth considering for this theme is *Sailors, Mermaids, and Pirates* (2017) by Sugar Cane Music.