

HUNGRY, HUNGRY HIPPOS

AGES

Children 4+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The hippos are hungry, hungry! Read a book about hippos, such as *Hilda Must be Dancing*, *Big Little Hippo*, or *The Hiccupotamus*. *Saving Fiona* is also a great nonfiction choice because you can also show children footage of Fiona from the Cincinnati Zoo website. Augment the program with a hippo sing-along or felt board. After storytime, children make a hippo puppet craft and/or play a fun twist on the classic Hungry, Hungry Hippo board game. Suggested runtime: 90 minutes

Wiggle Song: The Feet of a Hippo

To the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus.” Lyrics from *One Little Librarian* blog: <https://bit.ly/2LthtyR>

The feet of the hippo go thump, thump, thump,
Thump, thump, thump.
The feet of a hippo go thump, thump, thump, all day long.
The nose of a hippo goes snort, snort, snort,
Snort, snort, snort.
The nose of a hippo goes snort, snort, snort all day long.
The tail of a hippo goes swish, swish, swish,
Swish, swish, swish.
The tail of a hippo goes swish, swish, swish, all day long.

Felt Board Rhyme: One Hippo in the Bathtub

Lyrics from SLC Book Boy blog: <https://bit.ly/3fEFb9o>

One hippo in the bathtub going for a swim
Knock, knock (clap hands)
Splash, splash, (slap knees)
Come on in!
Repeat for up to six hippos.

TIP:

See also Chapter 02: Early Literacy for more hippo songs.

ADAPTATION:

For older children or teens, skip the storytime and make a full-body hungry hippo tournament where they roll around on skateboards or flat mechanic dollies. One idea here: <https://bit.ly/3fEESLM>

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For the paper bag hippo craft, you will need:

- Paper bags and paper plates
- Gray and pink construction paper or paint
- Googly eyes
- Glue sticks
- Marshmallows for teeth
- Markers
- Scissors

Example and instructions for a paper bag hippo puppet here: <https://bit.ly/3dDfKTS>

For the tabletop hippo game, you will need:

- One table with four chairs
- Plastic balls and a laundry basket
- Four shallow cardboard boxes and paint
- Construction paper
- Paper towel tubes
- Glue
- Velcro strips

Construct hippo hats from the shallow boxes (paint the boxes, use paper tubes for nostrils and eye support, insert strips of Velcro for adjustable sizing).

Hungry, Hungry Hippos



Image source: Danielle Marsh of Kenton Tipton County Public Library

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

While the storytime and craft could be held in your usual programming space, the tabletop hippo game is a great one to take outside.

RESOURCES

Web

The Fiona Show from the Cincinnati Zoo: <https://bit.ly/2y0byOU>

Memphis Zoo Hippo Cam: <https://bit.ly/2Tflhav>

“Five Hungry Hippos” is another great flannel story/song: <https://bit.ly/2AotROD>

Picture Books

Big Little Hippo (2019) by Valeri Gorbachev (F)

Duck and Hippo, Lost and Found (Duck and Hippo #2) (2017) by Jonathan London (F)

Elmer and the Hippos (2010) by David McKee (F)

Hello, Hippo, Goodbye, Bird (2016) by Kristyn Crow (F)

Here Comes Doctor Hippo (2012) by Jonathan London (F)

The Hiccupotamus (2006) by Aaron Zenz (F)

Hilda Must Be Dancing (2008) by Karma Wilson (F)

Hippos Are Huge (2017) by Jonathan London (NF)

One Red Sock (2019) by Jennifer Sattler (F)

Early Readers

The Case of the Missing Hippo (2019) by Laura James and Emily Fox (or any Fabio the World’s Greatest Flamingo Detective book) (F)

Hip, Hippo, Hooray for Fiona! (2017) by Jan Sherbin (NF)

Hippopotamister (2016) by John Patrick Green (F)

Hippopotamus (2017) by Grace Hansen (NF)

Hippopotamuses (2016) by Kate Riggs (NF)

Hippos (2005) by Conrad J. Storad (NF)

Huge Hippos/Grandes hipopótamos (2013) by Ryan Nagelhout (NF)

Saving Fiona: The Story of the World’s Most Famous Baby Hippo (2018) by Thane Maynard (NF)

The Truth About Hippos (2018) by Maxwell Eaton III (NF)