

PRESCHOOL

READ

In English

Big Little Hippo (2019) by Valeri Gorbachev. A storytime winner about a little hippo who realizes that size is all a matter of perspective.

The Book Hog (2019) by Greg Pizzoli. A library-themed book about a pig who loves books but cannot read. A lovely read-aloud.

Cyril and Pat (2019) by Emily Gravett. A funny picture book about a friendship between a squirrel and a rat. Its surprising interactive rhymes make it a great storytime choice.

Duck and Hippo in the Rainstorm (2017) by Jonathan London and Andrew Joyner. A sweet story about an unlikely friendship. Any book in the Duck and Hippo series is a good candidate for a storytime staple.

Grumpy Monkey (2018) Suzanne Lang and Max Land. A humorous picture book about a monkey who learns to feel his feelings but be careful of hurting others. Good for preschoolers transitioning to kindergarten.

Lion and Mouse (2019) by Jairo Buitrago, Rafael Tockteng, and Eliza Amado. A humorous book with colorful vocabulary.

Madeline Finn and the Library Dog (2020) by Lisa Papp. A book for inspiring new readers, this series has a comforting, old-fashioned feel. Spanish version also available.

Moo! (2013) by David LaRochelle and Mike Wohnoutka. A bold, funny, and engaging book about a cow who takes a truck for a joyride. It uses only one word, "Moo." The emphasis on inflection and expression makes it easy for children to read along.

Mosquitoes Can't Bite Ninjas! (2017) by Jordan P. Novak. For a mosquito-themed read-aloud, a wacky story about a stealthy ninja.

The Pigeon Has to Go to School (2019) by Mo Willems. Why does pigeon have to go to school if he already knows everything? Great choice for children about to head to kindergarten.

Please Don't Eat Me (2019) by Liz Climo. For a raucous and silly preschool storytime, try this story about a carefree bunny and a voracious bear with a never-ending list of requests.

Squeak! (2019) by Laura McGee Kvasnosky and Kate Harvey McGee. A circular story about a tiny mouse who wakes up with a squeak that causes a cacophonous stir amongst the other animals. Lively and funny.

The Way Home for Wolf (2019) by Rachel Bright and Jim Field. An independent wolf cub finds his way home with the help of a friend. Relatable youth angst.

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Singing nourishes the brain! It helps to reinforce memory and learn new concepts; develops speech, social behavior, and imagination; and prepares children for kindergarten and beyond. Children love singing even if adults sing off key, so sing away regardless of your skill.

PRESCHOOL

Who Wet My Pants? (2019) by Bob Shea and Zachariah Ohora. On a scout camping trip, an embarrassed bear searches for the pants-wetting culprit despite friends' assurance that accidents happen. A preschool comedy about empathy.

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears: A West African Tale (1992) by Verna Aardama, Leo Dillon, and Diane Dillon. Uniquely onomatopoeic tale of a mosquito's story that causes a jungle disaster.

Bilingual/Spanish

Aprendiendo a leer (2018) by Lisa Papp. Spanish edition of *Madeline Finn and the Library Dog*. (Spanish; also available in English)

La luz de Lucia (2015) by Margarita Del Mazo and Silvia Álvarez. A little firefly learns about the importance of shining as brightly as she can. Beautiful book, multiple award-winner. (Spanish; also available in English)

Maria Had a Little Llama/María tenía una llamita (2013) by Angela Dominguez. Peruvian-inspired illustrations and a retelling of a classic rhyme in both English and Spanish. (Bilingual)

The Three Billy Goats Buenos (2020) by Susan Middleton Elya and Miguel Ordóñez. Written by a former Spanish teacher, this fun retelling of the "Three Billy Goats Gruff" uses two-line rhymes and Spanish vocabulary. Glossary included. (English with Spanish words)

¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market (2019) by Raúl the Third. A joyous book that teaches simple words in Spanish as Little Lobo and his dog Bernabe deliver supplies to market. Fresh and engaging. (English with Spanish words)

SING**Rhyme/Fingerplay: Five Little Pigeons**

Start with five fingers and bend one finger for each pigeon that flies away.

Five little pigeons, flying around our door,
 The blue one flew away, and then there were four.
 Four little pigeons sitting in a tree,
 The yellow one flew away, and then there were three.
 The other little pigeons didn't know what to do,
 So the red one flew away, and then there were two.
 Two little pigeons sitting in the sun,
 The brown one flew away, and there was one.
 The little green pigeon felt so all alone,
 He/she flew away, and then there were none.
 Later on that very day, all five little pigeons came back to play!

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Tell caregivers that fingerplays help to strengthen the little muscles in children's hands that will hold a pencil.

PRESCHOOL

Fingerplay: Dos Mirlos

Dos mirlos sentados en una colina. (raise index finger of each hand)
 Uno se llama Juan. (raise right hand with index finger forward)
 Y la otra se llama Lena. (raise left hand with index finger forward)
 Vuélate, Juan. (fly right hand behind your back)
 Vuélate, Lena. (fly left hand behind your back)
 Ven aquí, Juan. (bring right hand back to front)
 Ven aquí, Lena. (bring left hand back to front)

Fingerplay: Five Speckled Frogs

Five little speckled frogs (set five fingers on opposite forearm)
 Sat on a speckled log
 Eating the most delicious bugs.
 Yum! Yum!
 One jumped into the pool (jump one finger off)
 Where it was nice and cool
 Now there are four green speckled frogs (set four fingers on opposite forearm)
Repeat pattern until last line
 Now there are no more speckled frogs.

Song: La Rana

Give character cut-outs (a frog under a waterfall, a gentleman with a cape and hat, a lady with an elegant dress, a sailor with flowers (or weeds from a garden), and a water bottle. Children show the characters as you sing. At the end, when the frog cries, the child with the frog sprays everyone with the water bottle; the other children run away from the crying frog. Hear an audio version from Texas State Library and Archives Commission here: <https://bit.ly/2yQ9OrR>

Cucú, cucú cantaba la rana
 Cucú, cucú, debajo del agua.
 Cucú, cucú, pasó un caballero
 Cucú, cucú, con capa y sombrero.
 Cucú, cucú, paso una señora
 Cucú, cucú, con traje de cola.
 Cucú, cucú, pasó un marinero
 Cucú, cucú, vendiendo romero.
 Cucú, cucú, le pidió un ramito
 Cucú, cucú, y no se lo dió
 Cucú, cucú, se puso a llorar.

Spanish/English

dos mirlos = two blackbirds

TIP:

“Sal de ahí, chivita” from Canciones Para No Dormir La Siesta is another fun cumulative song. It makes a great felt board but can be challenging for non-Spanish speakers to sing. Lyrics here: <https://bit.ly/2WTeANI>; sample or purchase here: <https://amzn.to/2T1gYAp>

Spanish/English:

la rana = frog

PLAY / TAKE HOME**Character Ordering**

Print out all the characters from “*Sal de ahí, chivita*” (or any cumulative song) and lay them on the ground (or put them in a box to be pulled out one by one). Ask children to put them in order according to the song.

Open Play Puppet Show

Set out puppets for the animals in your songs and let children play on simple stages made out of large cardboard boxes.



Image source: Shutterstock

Animal Feet Slippers

Set out a few pairs of preschool-sized animal feet slippers and let children try on different paws, claws, and hooves! Encourage families to bring their own animal slippers if they have them.



Image source: Shutterstock

Pizza Box Felt Board

Make a sample pizza box felt board and provide caregivers with the handout that explains how to make one at home. Answer any questions they might have, and provide shape templates that match your storytime songs, if available.

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Social interaction increases learning at all ages, so encourage preschoolers to stay and play!

PRINTABLE

PIZZA BOX FELT BOARD

Instructions for Caregivers

Convert a pizza box into a portable felt board* so your child can tell their favorite stories at home using felt animals!

Step 1: Find a pizza box. A used one works if it is clean, or ask a pizza store for a fresh one.

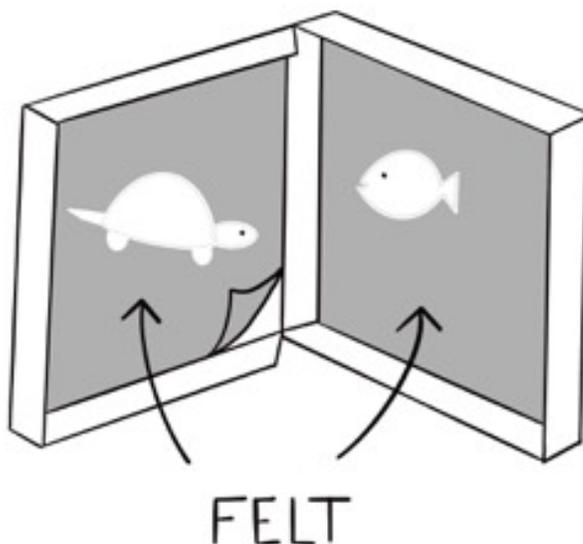
Step 2: Buy felt. Acrylic felt is the most commonly available (and the least expensive) option.

Step 3. Cover the insides of the pizza box with square pieces of felt.

Step 4. Cut shapes, numbers, and/or animals out of different colors of felt. You can also apply stickers to felt backings.

The felt sticks to itself and is easy to move around as your child plays. Simply close the box to store the pieces inside!

*felt board = flannel board.



Simple Animal Silhouettes

