

PRESCHOOL

READ

In English

Alan's Big, Scary Teeth (2016) by Jarvis. A goofy alligator scares all the other animals with his teeth, but what will he do when his teeth go missing? A winner for storytime audiences.

Bear Came Along (2019) by Richard T. Morris and LeUyen Pham. Forest animals tumble down a river in this high-spirited storytime book with and immersive pictures. Will keep children giggling. Caldecott Honor Book.

Elmer and the Hippos (2010) by David McKee (or any book in the Elmer series.) Vibrant illustrations in this story about working together to solve a conflict.

Flashlight (2014) by Lizi Boyd. A charming book reveals backyard nighttime creatures in its beam.

Packs: Strength in Numbers (2020) by Hannah Salzer. Stunning illustrations show how teamwork and togetherness help many animals, including humans, thrive. According to SLJ, a must-purchase for every collection.

The Perfect Siesta (2017) by Pato Meno. A cumulative tale about snoring rain forest animals that children are sure to request over and over.

Tiger Days: A Book of Feelings (2019) by M.H. Clark and Anna Hurley. Playful rhymes to expand emotional vocabulary.

We're Going on a Bear Hunt (1997) by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury. Classic story of splashing and swashing. Good for a bear theme.

Where the Wild Things Are (1963) by Maurice Sendak. A wild classic that most collections are sure to have.

Who Has These Feet? (2011) by Laura Hulbert and Erik Brooks. Lively guessing game about animal feet.

Whose Footprint Is That? (2019) by Darrin Lunde and Kelsey Oseid. A guessing game that is great to pair with an animal tracks or habitat theme.

Wolves (2016) by Emily Gravett (or anything by Emily Gravett). A wolf claws right off the pages of a library book.

Bilingual/Spanish

La familia Bola (2011) by Mónica Carretaro. Spanish-language version of Roly-Polies, a fun storytime choice with colorful illustrations. (Spanish; also available in English)

Little Roja Riding Hood (2014) by Susan Middleton Elya and Susan Guevara. An accessible, modern retelling with Spanish rhymes and plenty of contextual clues. Fun with a wolf theme. (English with Spanish words)

No More, Por Favor (2010) by Susan Middleton Elya and David Walker. A lush rainforest filled with picky eaters. Good rhymes for bilingual storytime but on the long side. (English with Spanish words)

TIP:

For more wild animal and safari-themed picture books, see Chapter 02:

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Repetition strengthens brain synapses and memory, so choose books with repetitive phrases or sentences, and ask children to practice saying them along with you. Feelings of safety and confidence turn on children's brains for more learning, so give them many chances to interact with familiar stories. For example, if you read three books per storytime, consider repeating one of those books in the next storytime.

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they actually learn to read and write. Helping children develop early literacy skills builds a foundation that makes them ready to read.

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Onomatopoeia appeals to the sense of hearing, and writers use it to bring a story or poem to life in the reader's head. It can also help to add a touch of fun or emotion to a piece.

PRESCHOOL

SING

Movement: Brown Squirrel

Brown squirrel, brown squirrel	(hands up like paws and bend knees up and down)
Shake your bushy tail.	(shake backside)
Brown squirrel, brown squirrel	(hands up like paws and bend knees up and down)
Shake your bushy tail.	(shake backside)
Drop a nut between your toes.	(bend and touch toes)
Crinkle up your little nose.	(scrunch up nose)
Brown squirrel, brown squirrel	(hands up like paws and bend knees up and down)
Shake your bushy tail.	(bend and touch toes)

English/Spanish:

brown squirrel = una ardilla marrón

Song/Movement: See You Later, Alligator

This animal goodbye song can be modified with any variation on the phrase, "See you later, alligator." Consider giving children laminated animal pictures and asking them to raise their animals in the air when you sing each line. To the tune of "Oh My Darlin' Clementine."

See you later, alligator	("chomp" hands in one direction)
After while, crocodile.	("chomp" hands in the other direction)
See you soon, big baboon	(lean to one side and scratch)
In the morn, unicorn.	(hold index finger like a unicorn horn)
Gotta go, buffalo	(hold index fingers like two horns)
Blow a kiss, jellyfish.	(blow a kiss)
Wave bye bye, butterfly	(wave goodbye)
Out the door, dinosaur!	(make hands into claws and roar!)

Movement: El Lobo Feroz

To the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes"

Cabeza	(point at your head)
Garras	(your hands as paws)
Hombros	(shoulders)
Y patas	(big feet)
¡Soy el lobo feroz!	(bare your teeth)

Spanish/English:

el lobo feroz = the fierce wolf

PRESCHOOL

Song: La Rana

A cumulative folk song that makes a great felt board. Sample or purchase an audio version here: <https://amzn.to/2WpfZfq>

Estaba la rana sentada
 Cantando debajo del agua.
 Cuando la rana se puso a cantar
 Vino una mosca y la hizo callar.
 La mosca a la rana,
 La rana cantando debajo del agua.
 Cuando la mosca se puso a cantar
 vino la araña y la hizo callar.
 La araña a la mosca
 La mosca a la rana
 La rana cantando debajo del agua.
 Cuando la araña se puso a cantar
 Vino el ratón y la hizo callar.
 El ratón a la araña,
 La araña a la mosca,
 La mosca a la rana,
 La rana cantando debajo del agua.
 Cuando el ratón se puso a cantar,
 Vino el gato y lo hizo callar.

Rhyme: El Reloj

Use rhythm sticks. Can be adapted for any animal, and you can name them in both Spanish and English.

Tic, toc	(move back and forth as the clock sounds)
Tic, toc	
Hace el reloj, esperando a alguien	
Que toque a la puerta	
Ton, ton, ton.	(tap the sticks)
!Miren quien es!	
Es un conejo	(make ears with sticks)
Es un gato	(make whiskers with sticks)
Es un pato	(make beak with the sticks)

TIP:

Felt board characters for “La rana”: la rana (frog), la mosca (fly), la araña (spider), el ratón (mouse), and el gato (cat).

Spanish/English:

la rana = frog

Spanish/English:

Un conejo = rabbit

Un gato = cat

Un pato = duck

Movement: El Toro Torojil

You will need at least six children to form a circle and hold hands. One player is the frog in the middle while everyone else sings. When the group asks “*Cómo amaneció la ranita?*” the child in the middle says “¡bien!” (well) or “¡engusanada!” (full of worms). If full of worms, everyone runs away from the frog. Whoever the frog catches joins that frog in the middle. The game is over when there are more *ranas engusanadas* than players dancing around them. Lyrics, game, and recording from Texas State Library and Archives here: <https://bit.ly/2Ln7Xxp>

Vamos a la vuelta del toro torojil
A ver a la rana comiendo perejil
La rana no está aquí
Estará en su vergel
Cortando una rosa
Y sembrando un clavel!
Cómo amaneció la ranita?

Song: Bear Is Sleeping

To the tune of “*Frère Jacques*.”

Bear is sleeping, bear is sleeping
In the cave, in the cave.
I wonder when he'll come out, I wonder when he'll come out
In the spring, in the spring.

Rhyme: Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear

Open the parachute and ask the children to spread out around its perimeter. Place the teddy bear in the middle of the parachute and recite the rhyme. At “Teddy bear, teddy bear turn around,” everyone lifts the parachute above their heads to make the teddy bear fly. When children get the hang of it, they can take turns running under the parachute to see if they can cross before the teddy bear lands.

Teddy bear, teddy bear turn around,
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the ground!

Spanish/English:

una ranita = little frog

TIP:

For a bear-themed storytime, remember classic folk songs “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt” and “The Bear Went Over the Mountain.”

PRESCHOOL

Movement/Song: Allá en la Fuente

Bring the parachute up and down with the fountain while singing this popular song. When the ant goes walking by (*ahí va la hormiga*), children walk around in a circle while holding the parachute. Repeat song quickly (*rapido*) and slowly (*despacio*).

Allá en la fuente
 Había un chorrito
 Se hacía grandote
 Se hacía chiquito
 Estaba de mal humor,
 Pobre chorrito tenía calor
 Estaba de mal humor,
 Pobre chorrito tenía calor.
 Ahí va la hormiga
 Con su paraguas
 Y recogiendo las enaguas,
 Porque el chorrito la salpicó
 Y sus chapitas le despintó
 Porque el chorrito la salpicó
 Y sus chapitas le despintó.

PLAY / TAKE HOME

Animal Tracks Scavenger Hunt

Print large animal tracks (see Printables) to hide around the children's area of the library, and print stacks of smaller cards to leave at each location. Preschoolers roam the room and collect all the tracks.

Parachute Shark Attack

Children put their feet under the parachute while you crawl underneath and pretend to bite their toes. They yell, "Shark attack!" when you "bite" them. Play the *Jaws* theme song in the background for extra fun. Idea from So Tomorrow blog here: <https://bit.ly/2YX2NA1>

Bear Hunt

Set up a library bear hunt. Sing the classic "Bear Hunt" song on repeat while children cycle through the stations. For grass, put out green tissue paper or green paper cut into strips; for the cave, paint a cardboard box with gray paint and put a stuffed bear inside; for the river, put a large sheet of butcher paper on the floor (painted blue) with stepping stones for children to walk over (use flat pillows or small mats, or purchase reusable ones here: <https://bit.ly/2WTLz4d>).

Bear Shadow Matching

See Printables for a Shadow Matching Puzzle that includes a bear.

TIP:

See Chapter 02: Hungry, Hungry Hippos for more hippo songs, as well as a hippo craft and outdoor game.

TIP:

See Chapter 02: Storytime Safari for an animal tracks matching game for older children.

English/Spanish:

animal tracks = huellas de animales

Spanish/English:

una hormiga = an ant

English/Spanish:

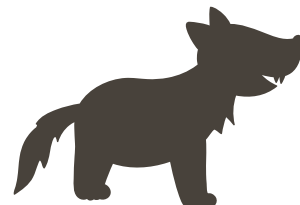
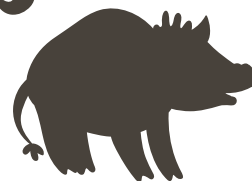
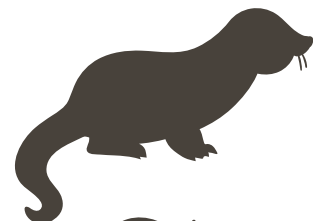
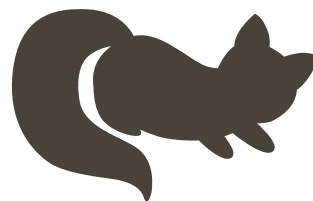
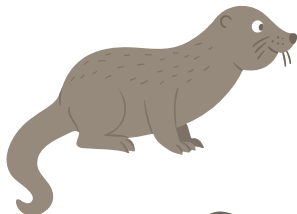
bear hunt = una caza de osos

PRINTABLE

Shadow Matching Puzzle



Find the right shadow



GAME/ACTIVITY

RESIZABLE DOWNLOAD

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

Animal Tracks



HORSE



GOOSE



DEER



DOG



DUCK



EAGLE



LION



WOLF



BEAR



FOX



RACCOON



BADGER



RABBIT



CROW



FROG



ELEPHANT