

TODDLERS

READ

In English

Animal Colors (2018) by Christopher Silas Neal. Bright and entertaining introduction to color theory. Toddlers are sure to play along.

Crocopotamus (2015) by Mary Murphy. Cute book for toddler and preschool wordplay. Especially good for one-on-one reading so they can flip the pages themselves.

Deep in the Ocean (2019) by Lucie Brunellière. Beautiful ocean board book; comes with a soundtrack.

Dino Duckling (2018) by Alison Murray. This toddler essential is a fresh twist on “The Ugly Duckling” and a fun storytime choice.

Get Out of My Bath! (2018) by Britta Teckentrup. Lively read-aloud about Ellie the elephant’s crowded bathtub.

Go Get ‘Em, Tiger! (2020) by Sandra Moyle and Eunice Moyle. Dynamic illustrations and wise whimsy. A rhyming confidence-booster.

Hello, Hippo! Goodbye, Bird! (2016) by Kristyn Crow and Poly Bernatene. A hilarious duo who go from frenemies to BFFs.

Old MacDino Had a Farm (2017) by Becky Davies and Ben Whitehouse. Lots of actions in this fun story about dinosaurs on a farm, and children will want to sing along.

One Lonely Fish (2017) by Andy Mansfield and Thomas Flintham. A playful, interactive counting book with a surprise ending; great for an ocean theme.

A Pet for Petunia (2011) by Paul Schmid. A simple laugh-out-loud story about Petunia’s pet skunk. Older toddlers and up.

A Unicorn Named Sparkle (2016) by Amy Young. A storytime hit with simple watercolor illustrations and comedic storytelling.

Bilingual/Spanish

Amazing Mel/¡Soy soprendente! (2019) by Carol Thompson. No animals in this bilingual board book, but it is great for a toddler storytime with musical instruments. (Bilingual)

Animal Talk: Mexican Folk Art Animal Sounds in English and Spanish (2016) by Cynthia Weill, Rubi Fuentes, and Efrain Boa. Illustrated by hand-carved folk art, this is a fun storytime book for acting out animal sounds in both languages. Also good for preschoolers. (Bilingual)

STORYTIME TIP:

Repeat, repeat, repeat! Repetition of stories, rhymes, and songs helps toddlers to master word and phrases, which increases self-confidence and primes them for more learning.

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Don't Eat Me, Chupacabra!;/No me comas, chupacabra! (2018) by Kyle Sullivan and Derek Sullivan. (English with Spanish words)

Say Hola to Spanish (2013) by Susan Middleton Elya and Loretta Lopez. A bouncy animal conga line that introduces Spanish words in festive rhymes. A lively storytime choice. (English with Spanish words)

SING
Rhyme: Snappy Shark

This rhyme goes well with fish felts or paper shapes in assorted colors. Give a fish to each child. When you announce a certain color, ask children with fish of that color to give you their fish. Using your hands (or a shark puppet if you have one), pretend to gobble up each fish as the child hands it to you.

Little rainbow fish swimming in the sea,	(swim hands in front of body)
Teasing Mr. Shark, "You can't catch me!"	(shake finger as if teasing)
Along come Mr. Shark as quiet as can be	(hold one finger in front of lips)
And SNAPS all the [color] fish	
Right out of the sea!	(vertical clap on "SNAPS")

Movement: Dance Like Songbirds

To the tune of "*Frère Jacques*." Give each child a feather (or cut out printed feather silhouettes) for them to dance with.

Dance like songbirds,	(flap arms like wings)
Dance like songbirds,	
In the air, in the air,	
Whirling twirling songbirds,	(spin around, wings out)
whirling twirling songbirds	
Here and there, here and there.	(stretch to the right on "here" and to the left on "there")

Song/Movement: Una Rata Vieja

Una rata vieja que era planchadora	(move your hands, pretend to iron)
Por planchar su falda se quemo la cola	(pretend you have a tail and it hurts)
Se puso pomada y se amarro un trapito	(rub your tail and tie a bow)
Y a la pobre rata le quedo un rabito	
Lero lero lero	
Lero lero la	
Esa rata vieja no sabe planchar	(move your finger, saying "no")

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Tell caregivers that this activity helps children to practice two important kindergarten skills: Color knowledge and the ability to wait and listen for cues.

English/Spanish

shark = el tiburón

English/Spanish

songbird = un pájaro cantor

Spanish/English

una rata vieja = an old rat

TODDLERS

Song/Movement: Un Patito Muy Especial

To the tune of “Six Little Ducks.” See video from King County Library System here: <https://bit.ly/3fZ4yTD>

A seis patitos un día conocí
Gordos, flacos y rubios vi,
Pero había un patito muy especial,
Guiaba a todos con su cua, cua, cua (2)
Se fueron al río a pasear
Porque a los patos les gusta nadar
Y ese patito tan especial
Guiaba a todos con su cua, cua, cua (2)
Después regresaron a su hogar
A comer el guiso que les hizo su mamá
Pero ese patito tan especial
Guiaba a todos con su cua, cua, cua (2)
Del sistema de bibliotecas del condado de King

Spanish/English

un patito = duckling

PLAY / TAKE HOME

Un Elefante Se Balanceaba (Parachute Version)

Make elephants out of construction paper (or use small stuffed elephants or balls) for toddlers to hold. Move the parachute up and down to the rhythm of the song. Toddlers throw another elephant onto the parachute each time the song adds another elephant to the spiderweb. Give parents printed lyrics with numbered elephants for the children to sing/play at home.

Fishing Hole

Purchase play fishing poles and magnetic fish, or make your own poles out of wooden dowels and string with magnets on the end. Glue magnets or paperclips to fish cutouts and put them in a round bin for children to fish out. For large groups, add more ocean stations: an ocean sensory bin (water beads with plastic fish, whales, and sea-shells); a shark tent (purchased, or drape a blue sheet over chairs); a coloring station; and/or aquarium bags (see Chapter 06: Babies).



Image source: Shutterstock

Creature Crawl

Put pictures of animals, insects, reptiles and birds in a basket for children to draw. When they draw an animal, they show the group how that animal moves, then the rest of the children join in.

TIP:

See Chapter 01: Preschool for a Simple Animal Silhouettes printable.

PRINTABLE

UN ELEFANTE SE BALANCEABA

Un (1) elefante se balanceaba
Sobre la tela de una araña
Como veía que resistía
Fue a llamar a otro elefante.

Dos (2) elefantes se balanceaban
Sobre la tela de una araña
Como veían que resistía
Fueron llamar a otro elefante.

Tres (3)...
Cuatro (4)...
Cinco (5)...

