

TODDLERS

READ

In English

Bear Needs Help (2019) by Sarah Brannen. A polar bear needs help tying his shoes but all the other animals are afraid of him. Its humor and large format make it good for mixed-age read-alouds.

Bird Hugs (2020) by Ged Adamson. A unique bird whose wings are only good for hugging. Sweetly humorous; best for small groups.

Can an Aardvark Bark? (2017) by Melissa Stewart and Steve Jenkins. Rhyming text about the sounds that animals make in different situations; good for expanding on animal sound basics.

Dancing Feet (2010) by Lindsay Craig and Marc Brown. A catchy and rhythmic get-up-and-dance toddler book.

Don't Wake Up the Tiger (2016) by Britta Teckentrup. Children can play along to this storytime favorite about animals who try to avoid waking up a tiger. Give a balloon to each child to increase the fun.

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

Hat Tricks (2020) by Satoshi Kitamura. Interactive read-aloud for young children, with bright colors and funny animal faces.

Hooray for Hat (2016) by Brian Won. The repetition in this book helps to create a fun, interactive storytime.

Llama, Llama, Mad at Mama (2007) by Anna Dewdney. This amusing tale of a llama's grocery story meltdown is a great one to add to a rhyming storytime.

The Very Busy Spider (1995) by Eric Carle. Storytime classic about a diligent spider. Sensory pages and rhythmic text.

Waddle!: A Scanimation Book (2009) by Rufus Butlee Seder. What this book lacks in story it makes up for in inspiring children to get up and move like animals.

Bilingual/Spanish

I Like it When.../Me gusta cuando... (2008) by Mary F. Murphy, Isabel Campoy, and Alma Flor Ada. All the things a little penguin likes to do; full story in both languages. (Bilingual)

Pintura de ratón/Mouse Paint (2010) by Ellen Stoll Walsh. Learn about color though this charming story about mice that paint; full story in both languages. (Bilingual)

Tortuga in Trouble (2009) by Ann Whitford Paul. Coyote is after turtle. Can the three amigos warn him in time? A fresh revamp of a classic tale; includes a glossary. (English with Spanish words)

STORYTIME TIP:

Try greeting each baby or toddler or with a kiss from an animal puppet. This helps you to learn their names, set storytime tone with giggles, and model play for caregivers.

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Laughter is essential for emotional development and strengthens bonds with caregivers, so funny books are always a great storytime choice.

STORYTIME TIP:

To increase engagement in big groups, use large-format books whenever possible.

TODDLERS

SING

Fingerplay: Ché Araña

Turn the chorus of a popular song by Cri-Cri into a fingerplay. As you say “ché araña,” make your hand into a spider. Count to three with your fingers, then crawl up and down toddlers’ arms. Sample or purchase the full song here: <https://amzn.to/3cy2gsA>

Ché araña,	(make hand into a spider)
Baila con maña	(bounce hand up and down three times)
Hay que contar tres pasitos	(crawl hand up your left arm three times)
Arrastraditos pa’ delante y para atrás.	(move and up and down baby’s arm)

Spanish/English

un araña = spider

Fingerplay: Alice the Camel

Lyrics and music here: <https://bit.ly/35SFFnS>

Alice the camel has 5 humps	(wave hand with five fingers)
Alice the camel has 5 humps	(wave hand with five fingers)
Alice the camel has 5 humps	(wave hand with five fingers)
So go, Alice, go, boom boom boom	(circle hand, then wave with four fingers)
Alice the camel has 4 humps	(wave hand with four fingers)
Repeat until you get to 0.	
Alice the camel has no humps	(make zero with hand)
‘Cuz Alice is a horse!	(surprise!)

English/Spanish:

camel = el camello

Rhyme/Fingerplay: Two Little Blackbirds

Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill,	(bend index fingers)
One named Jack and one named Jill.	(raise one index finger, then the other)
Fly away Jack, fly away Jill.	(one at a time, hide hands behind back)
Come back Jack, come back Jill.	(one at a time, bring hands to front)

Verses:

Singing on a cloud...quiet and loud
Picking up a stick...slow and quick
Flying through the sky...low and high

English/Spanish:

blackbirds = los mirlos

TODDLERS
Movement: Cucurrucucú Paloma/Playing with Scarves

Toddlers ball up scarves in their hands, hold their hands to their ears to “listen” for bird sounds, then let them fly. While they listen, say “Cucurrucucú! Es un pajarito! Escucha es una paloma! Cucurrucucú. Let’s let them fly! On the count of three—*uno, dos tres—para arriba!*” Toddlers throw their scarves/palomas into the air, then dance along to “Cucurrucucu paloma.” Sample or purchase the full song from Putumayo Kids here: <https://bit.ly/2WPD75J>

Fingerplay: Pon Gallinita

Use egg shakers or wave your hands as la gallinita lays her eggs.

Pon gallinita pon, pon gallinita un huevo	(one finger)
Pon gallinita pon, pon gallinita dos pon, pon	(two fingers)
Pon gallinita pon, pon gallinita un huevo	(one finger)
Pon gallinita pon, pon gallinita tres pon, pon, pon	(three fingers)
Pon gallinita pon, pon gallinita un huevo	(one finger)
Pon gallinita pon, pon gallinita cuatro pon, pon, pon, pon	(four fingers)
Pon gallinita pon, pon gallinita un huevo	(one finger)
Pon gallinita pon, pon gallinita cinco pon, pon, pon, pon, pon	(five fingers)

Song/Movement: Cinco Lobitos

Hold your arms up to either side, bent at the elbows. Twist your palms in time with the song. See video from Story Blocks here: <https://bit.ly/2WIO3SA>

Cinco lobitos
Tiene la loba,
Cinco lobitos
Detrás de la escoba.

Cinco lavó,
Cinco peinó,
Y a todos los cinco
A la escuela mandó

Spanish/English:

la paloma = dove or pigeon

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Singing and dancing enhance rhythm awareness, which helps children learn to read. Encourage caregivers to sing and dance at home. For another bird-themed dance song, see “Dance like Songbirds” in Chapter 06: Toddlers.

Spanish/English:

la gallinita = little chicken

el pollo = chicken

Spanish/English

la lobo = wolf

cinco lobitos = five little wolves

TODDLERS

Movement: Cinco Llamas

Make a felt board with five llamas and bees. When the bees come out, caregivers show their fingers and tickle their toddlers while buzzing.

Una llama debajo de la cama	
Ella tiene tos	(pretend to cough)
De repente entra otra y ahora	
¡Son dos!	(show two fingers)
Dos llamas comiendo pizza	(pretend to eat)
Por primera vez	
Se abre la puerta	
¡Ahora hay tres!	(show three fingers)
Tres llamas tomando el sol	
Junto al gato garabato	
Llega una nube negra	
¡Y aparecen cuatro!	(show four fingers)
Cuatro llamas	
Juegan en la calle	
La más pequeña pega un brinco	(jump!)
¡Y aparecen cinco!	(show 5 fingers)
Cinco llamas comiendo pan con miel	
Junto al panal,	
Llegan las abejas	(make “bzzzz” sound and tickle)
¡Y este es el final!	

Spanish/English:

una llama = llama

PLAY / TAKE HOME

Story Cubes: Animal Emotions and Sounds

Out of matching square boxes (tissue boxes work well, or make your own out of poster board), make two story cubes: One with a different animal on each side and one with a different emoji on each side. Roll the two cubes as a group (let toddlers take turns), then make the animal sounds together. For example, a cow and a smile: What does a happy cow sound like?

Ladybug Tracing Practice

Print the Ladybug Line Tracing worksheet for passive play or for toddlers to take home.

Chicken Puzzle

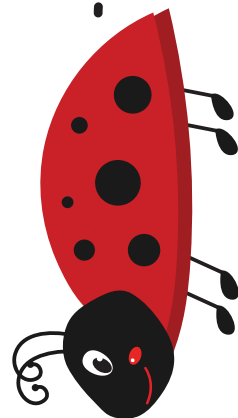
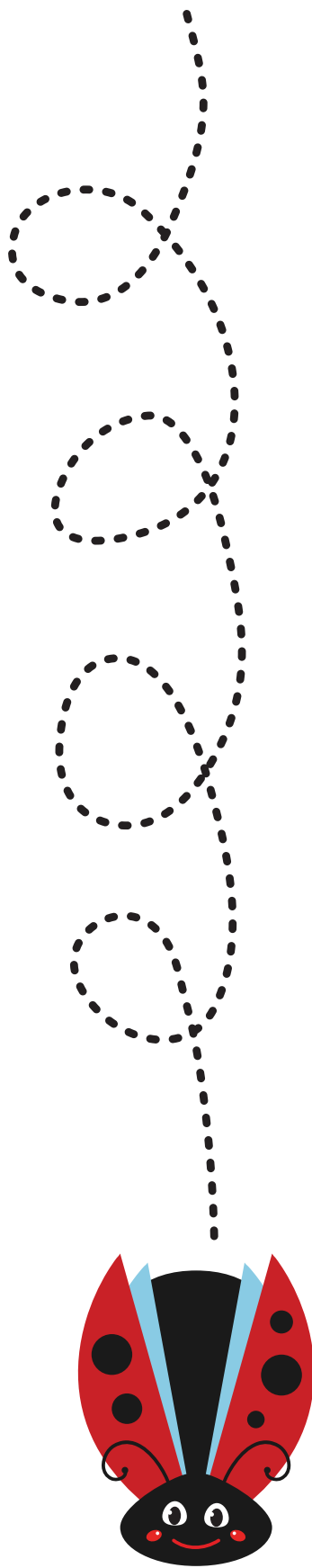
Print a few copies of this simple, four-piece puzzle and glue it onto cardstock. Color and laminate. Set them out during open play. Alternatively, provide printed copies for children to color and take home.

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Drawing, tracing, and scribbling all help to develop hand–eye coordination and fine motor skills. The more toddlers scribble, the easier it will be for them to learn how to write.

PRINTABLE

Ladybug Line Tracing



Simple Chicken

