

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)

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!)

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

Spanish/English

un araña = spider

English/Spanish:

camel = el camello

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 loba = 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!	

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.

Spanish/English:

una llama = llama

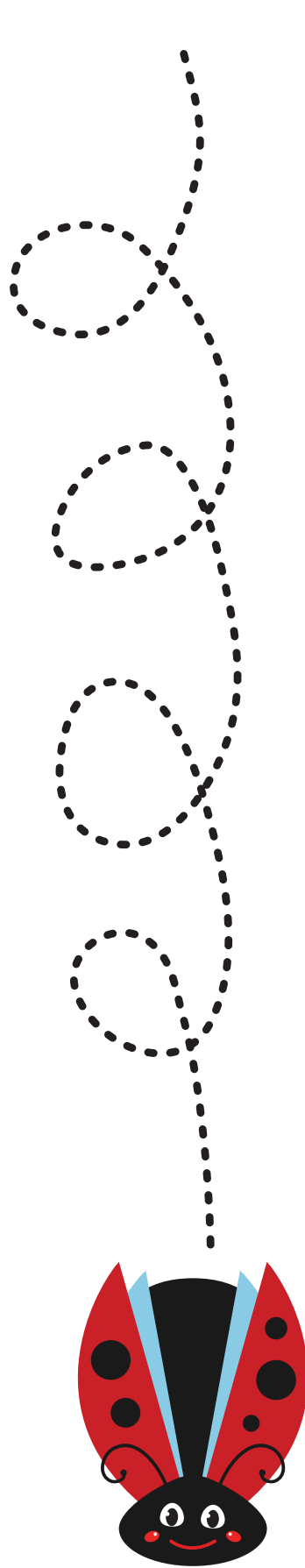
EARLY LITERACY TIP:

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.

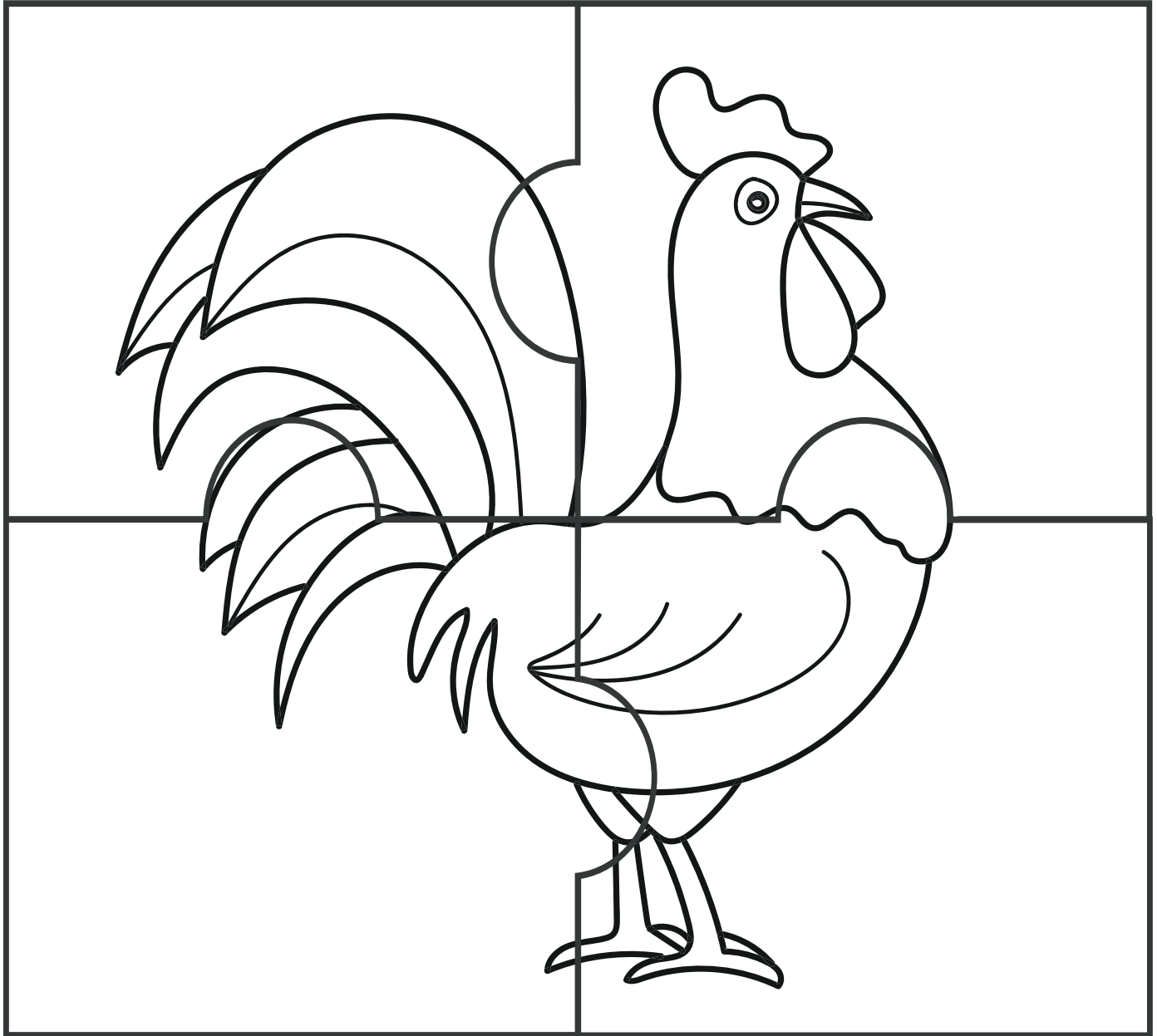
TODDLERS

PRINTABLE

Ladybug Line Tracing



Simple Chicken



TODDLERS

READ

In English

Birds (2009) by Kevin Henkes and Laura Dronzek. An enchanting story about a girl who sings while watching birds and imagines herself in flight. Good for preschoolers as well.

Feet (Whose Is It?) (2019) by Katrine Crow. A toddler guessing game for an interactive storytime. A good book to pair with the paw-matching activity below.

Hilda Must Be Dancing (2004) by Karma Wilson and Suzanne Watts. Hilda the hippo loves to dance, but the other animals want her to find a quieter hobby. Good for a dance-themed storytime.

Hooray for Birds (2017) by Lucy Cousins. Exuberant colors and rhymes make this a perfect storytime choice. Encourages movement.

I'm in Charge (2018) by Jeanne Willis and Jarvis. A bossy little rhino throws his weight around. A vibrant and charming read-aloud perfect for the "terrible twos."

Jump, Frog, Jump! (1989) by Robert Kalan and Byron Burton. Classic cumulative tale perfect to get toddlers jumping. Spanish version also available.

One Big Pair of Underwear (2018) by Laura Gehl and Tom Lichtenheld. Bears in underwear who hate to share. A silly rhymed.

One Fox: A Counting Book Thriller (2019) by Kate Read. Lively alliteration in this engaging read-aloud.

A Parade of Elephants (2018) by Kevin Henkes. Five joyful elephants march from dawn until dusk. A great group read.

Roar! A Noisy Counting Book (2000) by Pamela Duncan Edwards and Henry Cole. A rollicking poem about a rambunctious lion cub.

Snakes on a Train (2019) by Kathryn Dennis. Vibrant rhymes and word play in this bold book about truly adorable snakes. Children are sure to want to join in on the fun, hissing refrain.

Spunky Little Monkey (2017) by Bill Martin Jr. and Michael Sampson. Great book for getting the wiggles out through stomps, claps, and cheers. Great rhyme and rhythm.

Starry Safari (2005) by Linda Ashman and Jeff Mack. Rich pictures, onomatopoeic rhymes, and quick action make this a great storytime choice.

Tiny Little Fly (2010) by Michael Rosen and Kevin Waldron. A little fly irritates all the wild animals. Dynamic illustrations; to add movement, have toddlers shoo away pretend flies.

Underwear! (2020) by Jenn Harney. Rhymes galore in this story about a bear who would rather play with his tighty whities than go to bed. Pair with *One Big Pair of Underwear* for a bears-in-underwear theme.

TODDLERS

Bilingual/Spanish

Opuestos: Mexican Folk Art Opposites in English and Spanish. (2017) by Cynthia Weill. Another book of opposites; this one from the creators of *AbeCedarios* Compelling hand-carved folk art illustrations. (Bilingual)

Marta! Big & Small (2016) by Jen Arena and Angela Dominguez. Marta explores the jungle and meets animals of all sizes. A fun read-aloud that teaches toddlers about opposites. (English with Spanish words)

Rubia and the Three Osos (2010) by Susan Middleton Elya and Melissa Sweet. Bouncy rhymes and scattered Spanish words make this an excellent read-aloud. Also great for preschoolers. (English with Spanish words)

Salta, ranita, salta! (1994) by Robert Kalan. Classic cumulative tale perfect to get toddlers jumping. (Spanish; also available in English)

SING

Rhyme: Five Little Owls

Lyrics here: <https://bit.ly/2WtgRjo>

Five little owls on a dark, dark night.
 Five little owls are quite a sight.
 Five little owls, are you keeping score?
 One flies away and that leaves four.
 Four little owls are as happy as can be.
 One flies away and that leaves three.
 Three little owls calling, "Hoo, hoo, hoo!"
 One flies away and that leaves two.
 Two little owls having lots of fun.
 One flies away and that leaves one.
 One little owl and we're almost done!
 He flies away and that leaves none!

Rhyme: Two Little Butterflies

See video from Jbrary here: <https://bit.ly/2WUc0qa>

Two little butterflies sitting on a hill
 One name Jack, and one name Jill
 Fly away Jack, Fly away Jill
 Come back Jack, Come back Jill

Verses:

Cloud... soft...loud
 Stick... slow... quick
 Sky... low...high

**BILINGUAL
EARLY
LITERACY TIP:**

Bilingual brains have an edge! Speaking two languages benefits brain development, giving children a larger vocabulary, more flexible problem-solving skills, and higher cognitive ability. Encourage Spanish-speaking caregivers to read to their children in both languages at home.

English/Spanish:

five little owls = cinco pequeños búhos

owl = la lechuza

English/Spanish:

two little butterflies = dos pequeñas mariposas

TODDLERS**Sing: Hola Arturito**

To the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

¡El loro va a hablar!
El loro va a comer
¡Hay que rico esta!
¡El loro va a comer!
El loro va a cantar
La, la, la, la, la, la
¡El loro va a cantar!

PLAY / TAKE HOME**Paw High-Five Numbers**

Print 10 copies of the paw template and number the paws 1 to 10. Tape the paws to the wall at toddler height. Call out a number and encourage toddlers to give a high-five to the paw corresponding to that number. This activity can also be adapted to colors (with brightly colored printer paper), shapes, letters, uppercase vs. lowercase letters, or even sight words for preschoolers. For a twist, tape the paw prints on the floor and ask children to stomp on them.

Paws or Claws

Print animal paws/claws on cardstock and laminate them for durability. Paws should be large enough for children’s feet to fit inside. You will need six copies each of three distinct paws or claws (e.g. bear, bird, horse). Line them up in three rows of six; when you call out the animal name, toddlers find and step on that animal’s paws or claws. Depending on size of the group, children can take turns or play as a group.

Spot the Giraffe

Give caregivers the Spot the Giraffe printable to take home. Toddlers put spots on the giraffe using dry food (e.g., cheerios, macaroni, beans, etc.) or magnets and a baking sheet. This can also be adapted for many different animals and/or a library play activity.

English/Spanish:

el loro = parrot

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Learning to recognize pictures, such as those of animal paws, builds up letter recognition skills.

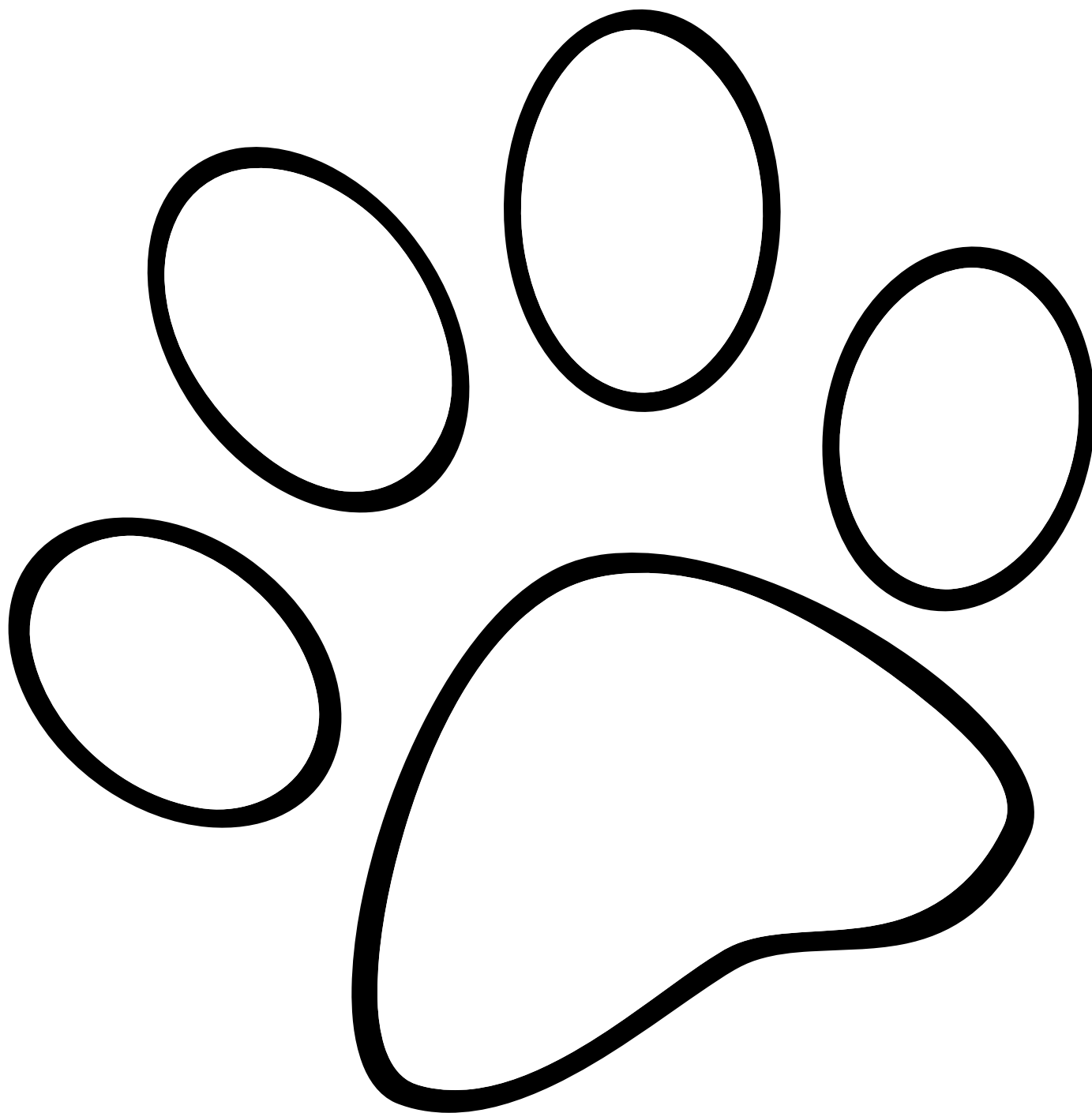
English/Spanish:

paw high-five = pata de cinco

TODDLERS

PRINTABLE

Paw High-Five Print



TODDLERS

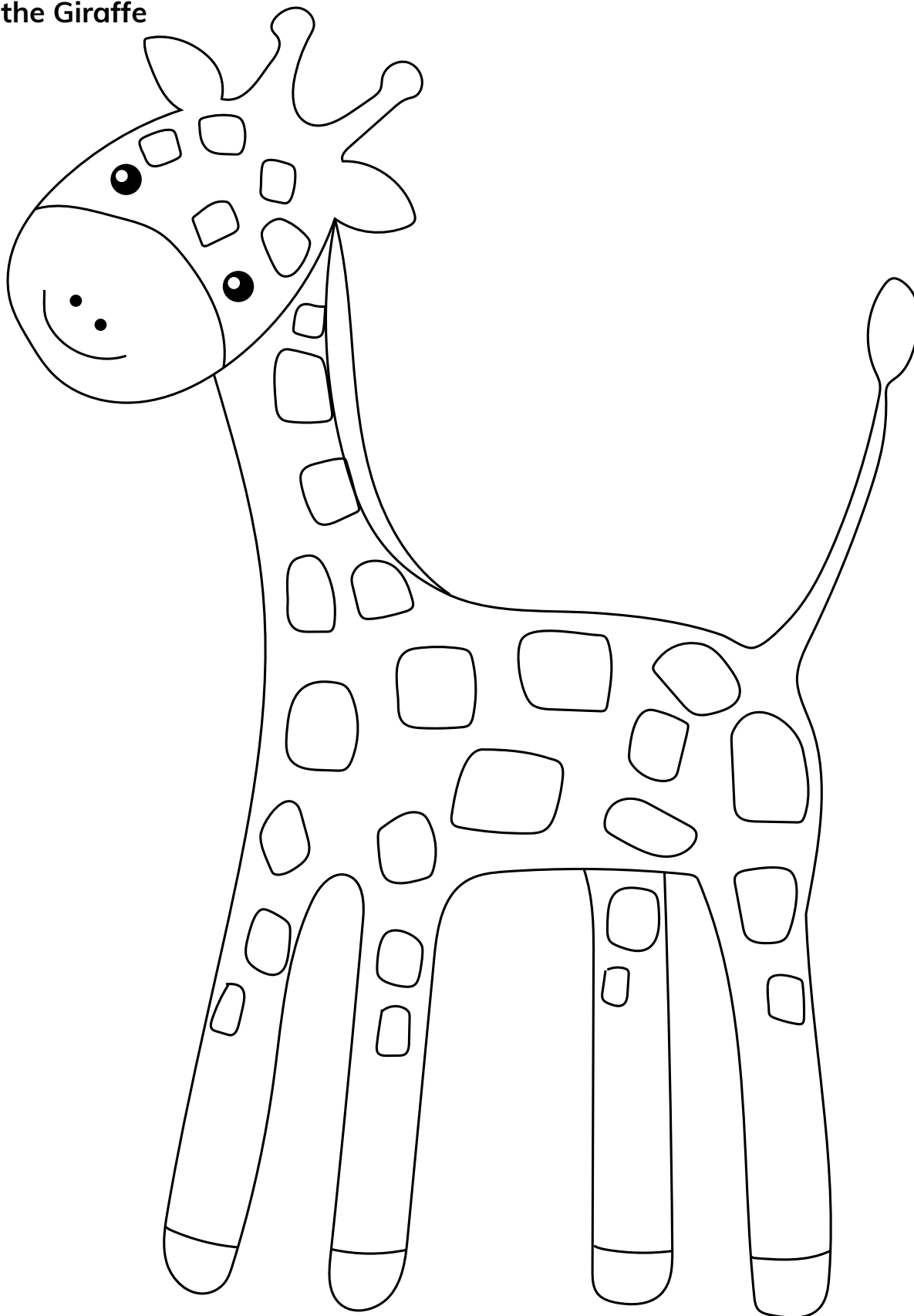
PRINTABLE

Paws or Claws



PRINTABLE

Spot the Giraffe



TODDLERS

READ

In English

Dear Zoo: A Lift-the-Flap Book (2007) by Rod Campbell. A zoo suggests wild animals as potential pets. A catchy refrain will make children want to join in.

Footloose (2016) by Kenny Loggins and Tim Bowers. This bouncy book about a zoo animal dance party has a shout-worthy chorus and comes with a CD.

Good Night, Gorilla (1996) by Peggy Rothmann. Exuberant bedtime at the zoo. A toddler classic. Spanish version also available.

Have You Seen Elephant? (2016) by David Barrow. A delightfully absurd story about playing hide-and-seek with an elephant. Wonderful illustrations.

Here Comes Dr. Hippo (2012) by Jonathan London and Gilles Eduar. Children can snap, sneeze, and roar along with the sick zoo animals in this humorous storytime addition

Peek-a-Boo Zoo (2015) by Joyce Wan. Peek-a-boo board book for a sweet toddler read-aloud.

Peppa Goes to the Zoo (2019) by Eone. A short read, good for Peppa lovers and a zoo theme.

The Seals on the Bus (2000) by Lenny Hort and G. Brian Karas. A jaunty re-take of the classic song with zoo-themed, onomatopoeic lyrics. Perfect storytime choice.

A Sick Day for Amos McGee (2010) by Philip C. Stead and Erin E. Stead. A lovely tale about zoo animals as caretakers; better for one-on-one than group read-alouds.

Today I Am a Veterinarian (2018) by Marisa Polanksy and Maxine Lee. Eye-catching illustrations and racially diverse characters. Great vocab for a veterinarian theme.

Bilingual/Spanish

Buenas noches, gorila (2002) by Peggy Rathmann. Spanish version of the English-language classic. (Spanish; also available in English)

How Do You Say?/¿Cómo se dice? (2016) by Angela Dominguez. Two giraffes who speak different languages befriend each other. (Bilingual)

Perritos: Un libro para contar y ladrar (2004) by Sandra Boynton. (Spanish; also available in English)

STORYTIME TIP:

After reading *Have You Seen Elephant* (2016), play a game of hide-and-seek with a stuffed elephant.

STORYTIME TIP:

For *Good Night, Gorilla* (1996) Give each toddler a construction paper “key” so they can play along with the little monkey’s antics.

TODDLERS

SING

Rhyme: Going to the Zoo

Toddlers will love to chant this rhyme over and over. Lyrics from Everything Preschool: <https://bit.ly/2y10mBE>

I'm going to the zoo, zoo, zoo.
 How about you you, you, you?
 We're gonna see a monkey (insert any zoo animal here)
 At the zoo, zoo, zoo!

Song: One Elephant Went out to Play

Tune and felt board from King County Library System: <https://bit.ly/2SXYBMT>

One elephant went out to play
 Upon a spider's web one day.
 He had such enormous fun,
 He called for another elephant to come (hold arm like a trunk)
 (Make elephant noise) (raise trunk into the air)
 Two elephants...
 Three elephants...
 Four elephants...
 Five elephants went out to play
 Upon a spider's web one day.
 The web went creak, the web went crack.
 And all of the elephants went kersplat!

Song: At the Zoo

To the tune of "Oh My Darlin' Clementine."

There's a monkey, there's a zebra,
 There's an elephant or two.
 I see lions and flamingos.
 Oh, I must be at the zoo.

There's a panda, there's a tiger.
 There's giraffes with long, long necks.
 There's a penguin, here's a turtle.
 There's a lion on a trek.

English/Spanish

zoo = el zoológico

monkey = un(a) mono(a)

STORYTIME TIP:

Slow down! Toddlers' brains need repetition and time to process new information, so do not try to cram all the songs and all the books into one storytime. Going too fast also makes it more difficult for storytime newcomers and ESL speakers to follow along.

TIP:

For more fun zoo animal songs, see Rob Reid's "Zoo Animals Introduce Themselves" in *Animal Shenanigans* (2015) and "Doot Doot Zoo" in *What's Black and White and Reid All Over?* (2012).

English/Spanish

monkey = un(a) mono(a)

tiger = un tigre

snake = una serpiente

owl = una lechuza

wolf = un lobo

TODDLERS

Song: Old MacDonald Had a Zoo/Is a Vet

This classic folk song is easily modified for a zoo/vet theme. Invite children to call out animal names to add to the song.

Old MacDonald had a zoo (or is a vet), E-I-E-I-O!
 And at his zoo he had a bear, E-I-E-I-O!
 With a “roar roar” here, and a “roar roar” there,
 Here a “roar,” there a “roar,” every where a “roar roar,”
 Old MacDonald had a zoo, E-I-E-I-O!

Song: Mi Burrito Enfermo

Sweet felt board song about a sick donkey who gets doctor’s order to get dressed. Video version from Story Blocks here: <https://bit.ly/2AowuzZ>

A mi burro, a mi burro
 Le duele la cabeza,
 Y el médico le manda una gorrita negra.
 Una gorrita negra...
 Y mueve las patitas (shake rattle or clap hands, four beats)

A mi burro, a mi burro
 Le duele la garganta
 Y el médico le manda una bufanda blanca.
 Una gorrita negra, una bufanda blanca...
 Y mueve las patitas (shake rattle or clap hands, four beats)

A mi burro, a mi burro
 Le duele el corazón
 Y el médico le manda gotitas de limón
 Una gorrita negra, una bufanda blanca, gotitas de limón...
 Y mueve las patitas (shake rattle or clap hands, four beats)

PLAY / TAKE HOME**Stripe the Zebra**

Draw a large zebra silhouette on white butcher paper (omit the stripes), and tape it to the wall. Give each toddler a strip of black construction paper with tape on the back, and ask them to stripe to the zebra. This could also be done with a felt board.

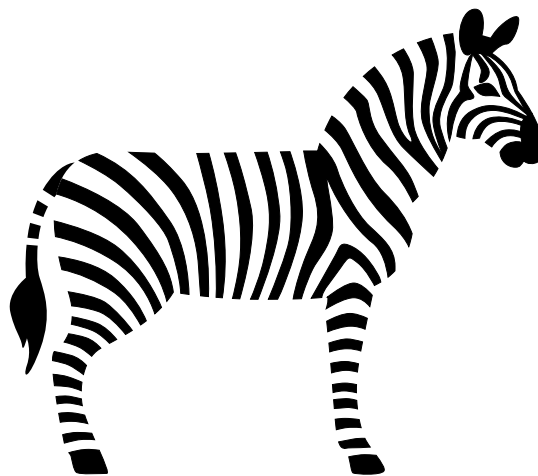


Image source: Shutterstock

STORYTIME TIP:

Remember simple props that can be handed out to each toddler or preschooler (e.g., puppets, paper cut-outs, or popsicle sticks). When children use props to echo a story’s actions, it grounds them in the story and increases participation.

Spanish/English

mi burrito enferma = my sick little donkey

TODDLERS**Zoo Sensory Bin**

In a plastic storage bin, put uncooked rice (liquid watercolors optional) or kinetic sand, plastic zoo animals, scoops or small shovels, and plastic funnels. Add a plastic tablecloth for easier cleanup.

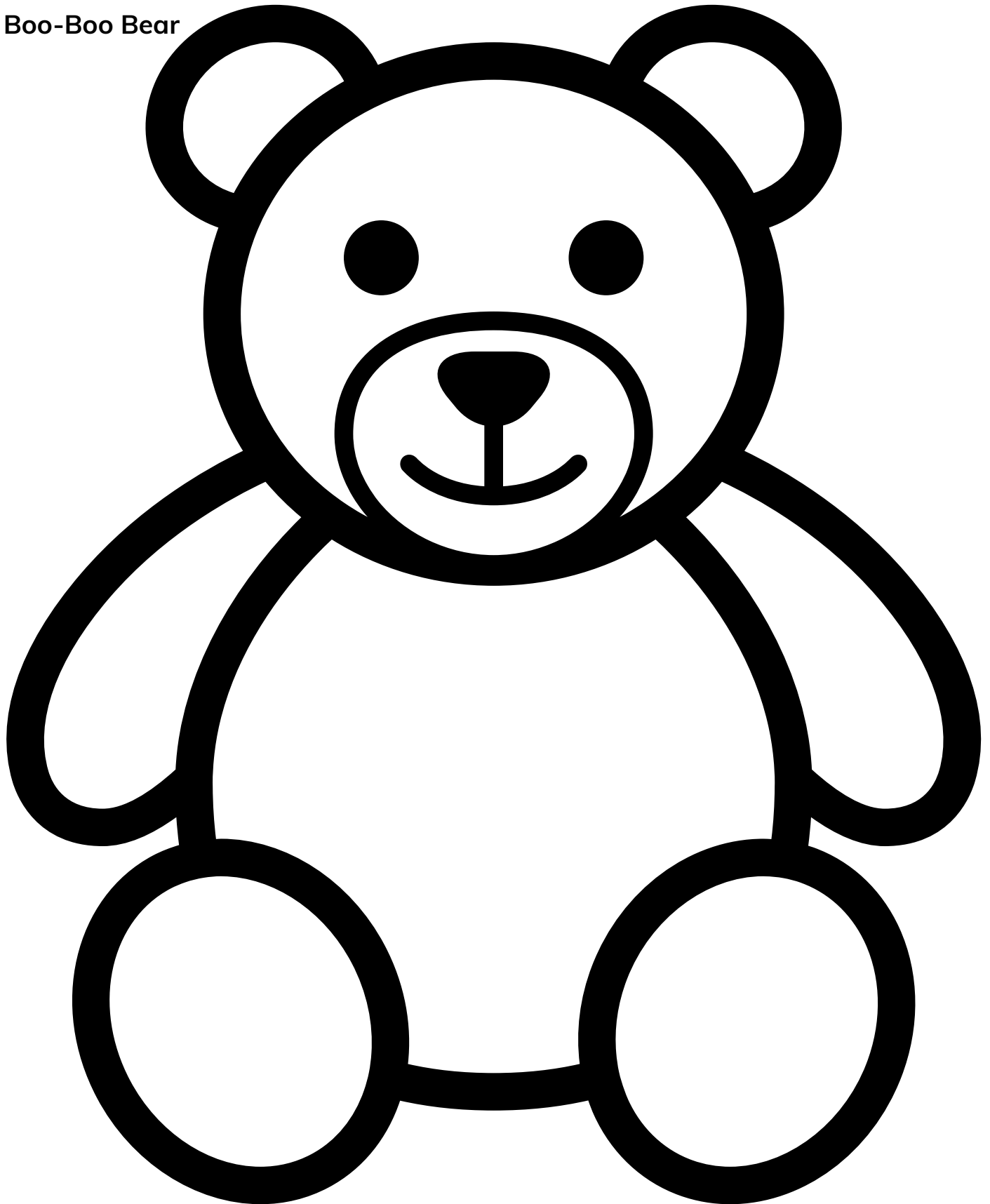
Boo-Boo Bear

Toddlers color “boo-boos” on their printed bears, and caregivers add bandages at home. You could also create a group felt board activity using the same idea.

TODDLERS

PRINTABLE

Boo-Boo Bear



TODDLERS

READ

In English

Blue (2018) by Laura Vaccaro Seeger. A heart-warming friendship about a boy and a dog, with lush illustrations in shades of blue.

Do You See My Tail? (2017) by Anita Bijsterbosch. A fun toddler guessing game with forest animals; good for a habitat theme.

Hats Are Not for Cats! (2019) by Jacqueline Rayner. The household dog is a hat-hoarding tyrant. Delightful rhymes make this a great read-aloud.

How to Be a Cat (2019) by Nikki McClure. A kitten masters feline life skills. A lovely storytime book with beautiful black-and-white papercut illustrations.

Max Attacks (2019) by Kathi Appelt and Penelope Dullaghan. Max the cat attacks many things, but how many does he actually catch? Gentle rhymes carry the story.

My Cat Looks Like My Dad (2019) by Thao Lam. Humorous parallels between a plump furry cat and a mustachioed man. A silly book with broad appeal and interesting collages.

My Friends (2005) by Gomi Taro. A little girl lists all the things she has learned from her animal friends.

Not Norman: A Goldfish Story (2008) by Kelly Bennett and Noah Z. Jones. A satisfying read-aloud about a pet goldfish. Good for preschoolers as well.

One-Dog Canoe (2009) by Mary Casanova and Ard Hoyt. A one-dog canoe becomes an animal-overloaded canoe; lively rhymes, wry humor, and a splash ending.

One Shoe Two Shoes (2019) by Caryl Hart and Edward Underwood. Mice hiding in shoes and a curious dog. Joyous rhymes and large-format folk art make this a great storytime choice.

Pet this Book (2018) by Jessica Young and Daniel Wiseman. Basic pet care in rhyme.

Puppy Truck (2019) by Brian Pinkney. Onomatopoeic lines make this an excellent storytime for puppy and/or truck lovers.

They All Saw a Cat (2016) by Brendan Wenzel. Joyous repetition makes this an attention-grabbing book about differences in perspective; 2017 Caldecott winner.

Where Birdie Lives: A Lift-the-Flap Book (2019) by Elena Tsvetayeva. A dog hunts for birdie in this interactive storytime mystery for toddlers to solve.

STORYTIME TIP:

Be sure to leave room for serve-and-return conversations in which you repeat back what toddlers say. Ask yes-or-no questions, or questions with two choices, and give toddlers time to think before responding.

TODDLERS

Bilingual/Spanish

¿De qué tienes miedo, Ratoncito? (2015) by Susanna Isern and Nora Hilb. Sweet bedtime story about a mouse facing his fears. (Spanish; also available in English)

El perro con sombrero: A Bilingual Tale (2015) by Derek Taylor Kent and Jed Henry. A sombrero turns a homeless puppy into a movie star loved by everyone except the cat. (Bilingual)

Looking for Bongo (2016) by Eric Velasquez. A sweet mystery for toddlers about a boy in a Black and Latinx family looking for his stuffed Bongo (and asking both house pets and multigenerational family members for help). (English with Spanish words)

Mamá Goose: Bilingual Lullabies-Nanas (2019) by Alma Flor Ada, F. Isabel Campoy, and Maribel Saurez. Board book with favorite lullabies from all over the Spanish-speaking world, with English translations. Great in either or both languages. (Bilingual)

SING**Fingerplay: I Had a Little Turtle (Version 1)**

To the tune of “Tiny Tim.”

I had a little turtle	(close fist with thumb sticking out)
He lived in a box	(make box shape with hands)
He swam in the water	(swimming motions)
He climbed on the rocks.	(climb fingers of one hand over other fist)
He snapped at a mosquito	(snapping motion for each)
He snapped at a flea	
He snapped at a minnow	
And he snapped at me.	
He caught that mosquito	(reach out and pretend to catch each)
He caught that flea	
He caught that minnow	
But he didn't catch me!	(smile and shake head)

Fingerplay: I Had a Little Turtle (Version 2)

See video from Jbrary here: <https://bit.ly/2xTTuWu>

I had a little turtle	(bounce fist with thumb up, cover with opposite hand)
His name is Tiny Tim	
I put him in the bathtub	(turtle jumps down)
To see if he could swim.	(swimming motions, both hands)
He drank up all the water	
Glub-glub-glub-glub-glub	(cup hand and pretend to drink)

STORYTIME TIP:

For big groups, sing extra songs before the read-aloud. Toddlers have a hard time concentrating on books if people are still trickling into storytime.

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Toddlers understand more words than they speak, so avoid talking to them exclusively in “baby language” so they can learn to speak well.

TODDLERS

He ate up all the soap (pinch hands at mouth and pretend to eat)
 And now he's home
 sick in bed (lean head on hands together)
 with bubbles in his throat! (pat throat)
 Bubble, bubble, bubble (spin forearms around each other)
 Bubble, bubble pop! (clap on "pop!")

Fingerplay: Here Is the Beehive

Here is the beehive (make a fist)
 But where are the bees? (shrug shoulders)
 They're hiding inside where nobody sees (point at fist)
 Watch them come out of the hive!
 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (raise fingers one at a time)
 Bzzzz (fly fingers around or tickle)

Song: A Bird Builds a Nest

Pretend to build a nest with invisible items in beak. Sing to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

A bird builds a nest
 A bird builds a nest
 With sticks and leaves
 And string and weeds
 A bird builds a nest

Rhyme: Little Mouse, Little Mouse

The basic felt board idea is to hide a mouse behind one of the colored houses. Also makes a good stay-and-play activity. Jbrary has a great roundup of adaptations to keep things interesting: <https://bit.ly/3cyeRvS>

Little mouse, little mouse, are you in the red house?
 Little mouse, little mouse, are you in the blue house?
 Little mouse, little mouse, are you in the (any color) house?
 Repeat.

Fingerplay: Conejo Mio

Salta mi conejito (two fingers up for bunny's ears)
 Para tus orejitas (move fingers up and down)
 Come tu zacatillo (pretend you are eating)
 Conejo mio (hug yourself)
 Conejo mio

Tristes estan los campos
 Desde que tu te fuiste
 Por eso yo te canto
 Conejo mio
 Conejo mio

English/Spanish

turtle = una tortuga
 mosquito = un mosquito
 flea = una pulga
 beehive = una colmena
 bird = un pájaro
 little mouse = un pequeño ratón

Spanish/English

conejito = little bunny

TODDLERS

PLAY / TAKE HOME

Where Is My Home?

Set out two empty baskets, each with a picture of a habitat (e.g., farm, zoo, house, aquarium). Toddlers sort animal puppets (or laminated pictures) into the correct basket. For preschoolers, you can have the same activity with more complex habitats and/or animals.

Doggy, Doggy, Where's Your Bone?

Children take turns as “Doggy” to stand up front with a bone behind their back. They close their eyes as another child steals the bone, returns to their place in the circle, and hides it behind where they sit. As a group, recite “Doggy, Doggy, Where's Your Bone? Somebody took it from your home. Guess who / It might be you.” Doggy guesses until they find the child who took their bone, then that child becomes the next Doggy. Good with small groups. You can also give a bone silhouette to each child to take home.

Idea here: <https://bit.ly/35Uh3uO>

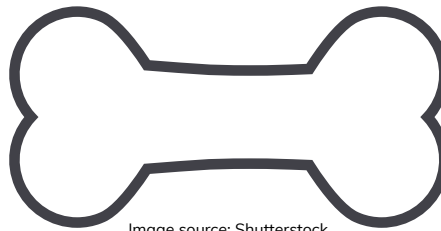


Image source: Shutterstock

Feather the Bird

Post a large bird silhouette on a felt board (or tape a craft paper silhouette to a wall). Give each child a brightly colored “feather” and ask them to feather the bird by color. For large groups, call out one color at a time.

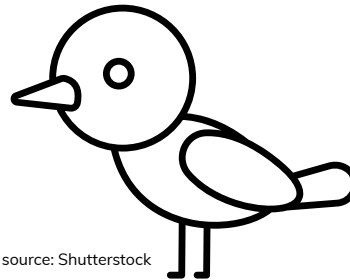


Image source: Shutterstock

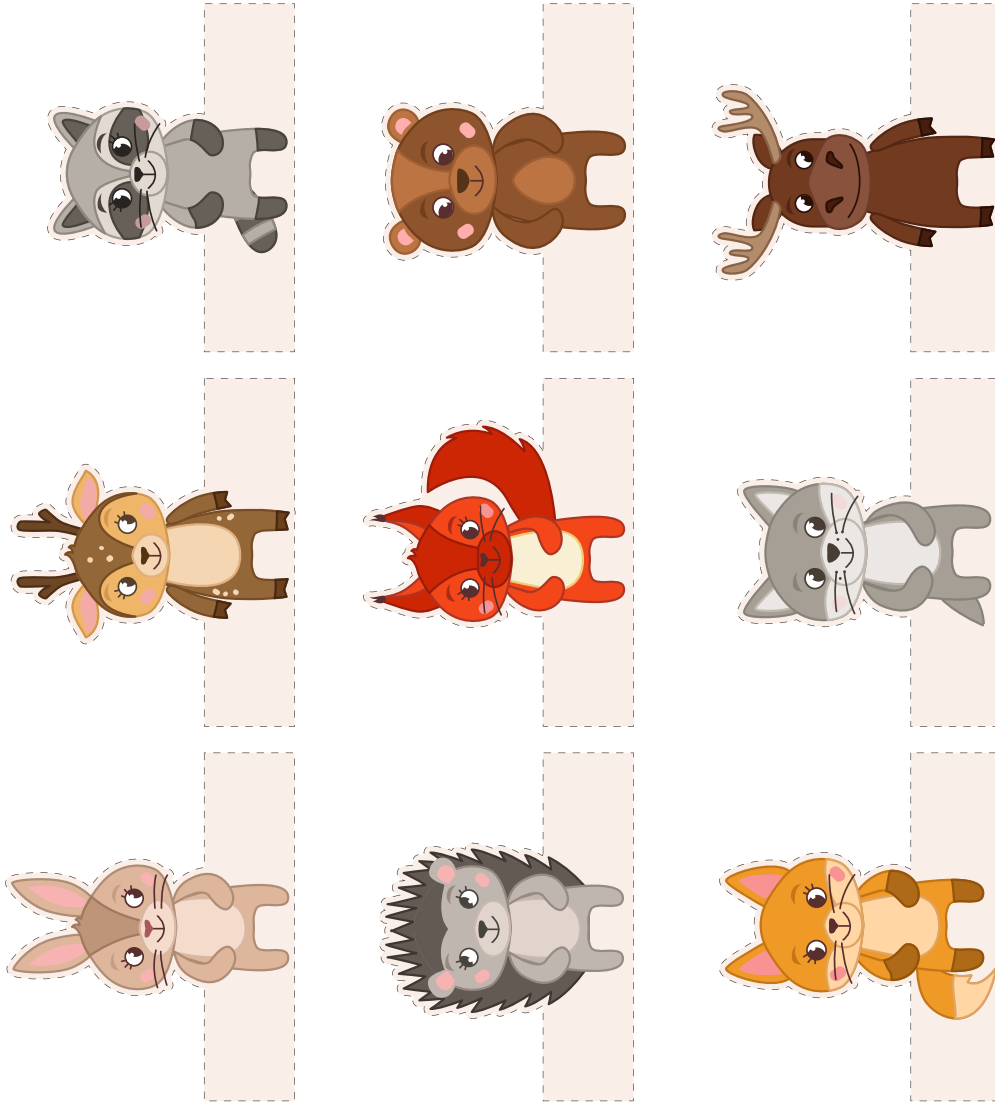
Forest Animal Finger Puppets

Tape forest animal finger puppets around little fingers, then let toddlers play. Precut the templates or, to modify for preschoolers, let them cut out the finger puppets themselves with safety scissors.

TODDLERS

PRINTABLE

Forest Animal Finger Puppets



MINI GAMES

Finger PUPPETS

FOREST ANIMALS

1 cut out

2 glue

3 PLAY!

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 Ducking” 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 Me!/¡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.

TODDLERS

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)...

