

The background of the cover is a light yellow-green color with several stylized leaf motifs scattered across it. Each motif consists of a stem with two leaves pointing upwards and to the right.

# Storytimes for Children

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**Stephanie G. Bauman**

 **Greenwood**  
PUBLISHING GROUP

# **Storytimes for Children**





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Stephanie G. Bauman, Editor

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# Introduction

Fast paced can seem like an understatement for today's busy librarian. Budget cuts, hiring freezes, more demands and fewer resources . . . sound familiar? In the midst of all this is a group of children who need you to prepare and conduct an amazing storytime program . . . and its tomorrow! But who has the time to create age-appropriate, interesting, fun, and educational storytime programs?

Library and information science graduate students, that is who! They bring a wide range of library experience, relevant learning, innovation, and of course a deep-seated need for good grades to the process of creating amazing storytime programs. In fact sometimes they are so good, they need to be shared. This book is a collection of just such storytime programs, created and collected by the graduate students of Professor Blanche Woolls at San Jose State University.

Each chapter of this book highlights a specific age group, customizing the programs to be relevant and entertaining to those children. Each grouping has several similar elements. The first is a distinct opening and closing, which can vary from a song to a train whistle or even a greeting/goodbye statement. It is important to have the same opening and closing routine for each of your storytimes, especially for younger children. This shows familiarity, sets the tone, and provides consistency. The body of each program varies according to age but always includes a literacy activity such as a book reading or two, booktalks, technology use, or reader's theatre. Also included in many of the programs, as allowed by time, are an activity, craft, or guest speaker related to the chosen theme.

At all times, efforts were made to honor copyright. Therefore, words to poems, rhymes, and song lyrics are included when they are in the public domain. For others, titles will identify the passage, and any paraphrasing of the wording will be given. Links and information pertinent to finding the titles will be provided.

It is my hope that this collection of storytimes is broad enough that it can be used in a pinch as well as for future programming. Suggested books can be substituted per your own resources or can be ordered new or used online, for those essential titles. This book should be a great addition to your own creativity, providing ideas and saving you some of that rare commodity: time.

Have fun, choose books that children will like! Remember to be silly, educate, create, and inspire!



# 1

## Infants and Toddlers (0–2 Year Olds)



These storytimes are written for children who are 0–2 years old. The age group is great fun to have at storytime because the parent or caretaker is present, adding an additional and beneficial element. These programs enable parents to have a great interaction with their child through songs, rhyming, and finger plays. It is important to connect with the parents, especially if you want repeat visitors, so make it a point to know their names and conclude each storytime with additional resources and instructions for them.

This age group is sometimes known as lap-sit because the child sits on a parent's lap. This arrangement improves the level of interaction and can help keep the focus on the activities. The duration of each storytime is quite short, ranging from 15 to 25 minutes, to accommodate those short attention spans, and to avoid torturing the parents with too much baby talk and singing.

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With this age group, storytime should include large picture books, bright colors, and easily recognizable items. The words are simple and usually rhyme. Infants and toddlers find themselves in a world awash with new sensations, so sights and sounds are very important. The activities recommended are usually interactive finger play songs, where the parent helps the child use their own hands to act out the words of the song. The child can then make connections between words and real-world objects (like their belly button) or just have a fun time moving to the music with their favorite person.

# April Showers

*Anticipated Length:* 20 Minutes

*Opening:*

“Welcome to Rhyme Time! My name is Julie and I want to welcome you all to the library today. This week, we are thinking about April showers and we will be singing songs and sharing stories about rain. Your handout has all the words to the songs and a list of stories that we have in our library about spring. Please sing along with the songs and help your little ones participate as much as possible. We will have time to play together when our storytime is over. If your child becomes restless, please feel free to get up and move around the library and come back when you can. So let's get started!”

*Opening Song:*

## **Good Morning!**

[http://bussongs.com/songs/good\\_morning.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/good_morning.php)

*Book Activity:*

**First Comes Spring** by Anne Rockwell. ISBN# 0061074128

This is a lovely and short story with descriptions of spring themes, including flowers, rain, and birds.

*Fingerplay Song:*

(Parents help their child to act out the song's lyrics.)

## **Itsy Bitsy Spider**

[http://bussongs.com/songs/itsy\\_bitsy\\_spider.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/itsy_bitsy_spider.php)

*Song Activity:*

## **Rain, Rain Go Away**

[http://bussongs.com/songs/rain\\_rain\\_go\\_away.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/rain_rain_go_away.php)

(Repeat for all children in the group, or, if group is too large, just sing “all the children want to play.”)

*Book Activity:*

**The Mole Sisters and the Rainy Day** by Roslyn Schwartz. ISBN# 1550376101

*Song Activity:*

## **Robin in the Rain**

<http://www.metrolyrics.com/robin-in-the-rain-lyrics-raffi.html>

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*Closing to Parents:*

I want to thank you all for coming today. Please feel free to stay and visit. Our books about spring are on the cart and there are extra copies of our song and story lists for you to take home. See you next week!

This storytime is based closely on a storytime written by Julie Andrews-Jotham.



Notes

# Babies

*Anticipated Length:* 20 Minutes

*Opening:*

“**G**ood Morning. I am very glad you all came. My name is Mrs. Turner. If at any time if your child is unhappy, please feel free to leave. Do not feel like you are a disruption. We want you to know the library is a happy place. Your child sees and experiences others babies in a much different way than they interact with adults, so today’s theme is babies.”

*Opening Song:*

**Where Is (insert child’s name here)?** (To the tune of Where Is Thumbkin?)

[http://bussongs.com/songs/where\\_is\\_thumbkin.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/where_is_thumbkin.php)

(Go to each child and play Peek-a-boo as you sing the song. You will need to sing the song several times depending on how many children are present. Encourage parents to sing and play along with their own child and the children sitting next to them.)

*Book Activity:*

**Baby Face: A Book of Love for Baby** by Cynthia Rylant. ISBN#1416949097

(I use the Elmo with a computer and LCD projector. I place the book under the Elmo and it projects the page on the screen. Parents can read along to their child.)

*Fingerplay Song:*

(Parents help their child to act out the song’s lyrics with another child.)

**Pat a Cake**

<http://bussongs.com/search.php?query=patty+cake>

*Book Activity:*

**My World Lap Edition** by Margaret Wise Brown. ISBN# 0061667544

*Activity:*

**Bubbles**

(Have bubble solution and blow bubbles for the babies.)

*Closing Song:*

**So Long, Farewell** from the Sound of Music Soundtrack

<http://www.stlyrics.com/lyrics/thesoundofmusic/solongfarewell.htm>

*Closing to Parents:*

Parents, the library is open during posted hours, but we are open every Wednesday for your storytime. This will make it easy for you to come and check out books. Although

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you may check out two books at a time from the storytime table and keep them for one week, bringing them back the following Wednesday, you will find other books for parents in the children's room. Please take a few minutes to see what books we have that you can share at home with your child.

This storytime is based closely on a storytime written by Elizabeth Turner.



Notes

# Faces

*Anticipated Length:* 20 Minutes

*Opening:*

(Blow a train whistle to signal that it's time to start.)

“Hello everybody, my name is Josh. Thanks for coming to storytime. The theme for today is faces. Babies are first able to explore their world visually, and faces are the first and most common thing that they see and learn to recognize. Naturally faces are quite popular with babies, so let's begin with a song.”

*Opening Song:*

**Hello Babies** (Tune of “London Bridge”)

For this simple song you can make up your own fun lyrics.

Hello Babies . . .  
How's your day?  
Let's go play!  
Say hooray!

*Fingerplay Song:*

(Parents help their child to act out the song's lyrics.)

**Open, Shut Them**

[http://bussongs.com/songs/open\\_shut\\_them.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/open_shut_them.php)

*Book Activity:*

**Baby Faces** by Margaret Miller. ISBN# 0689819110

*Fingerplay Song:*

(Parents help their child to act out the song's lyrics.)

**Face Play**

Knock at the door (Forehead Tap)  
Ring the bell, (A Little Tug at Each Ear)  
Lift the latch (Eye Lids Raised)  
Walk in (Open Mouth and Pop a Finger Inside)  
Take a chair (Touch Right Cheek)  
Sit down (Touch Left Cheek)  
Good morning, Sir! (Finger On Chin)

[http://bussongs.com/songs/face\\_play.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/face_play.php)

*Book Activity:*

**Baby Talk (Flip-A-Face)** by Harriet Ziefert. ISBN# 1593541058

*Song Activity:*

**Baby Face** from CD by same title created by kimbo educational:

[http://kimboedcatalog.com/baby\\_face\\_cd-p-56165.html?osCsid=3f2bf06d851e63feb22f4dcc664b8859](http://kimboedcatalog.com/baby_face_cd-p-56165.html?osCsid=3f2bf06d851e63feb22f4dcc664b8859)

(Children and caregivers are encouraged to clap and sing along.)

*Book Activity:*

**Big Smile, Baby!** Illustrated by Charlotte Stowell and Photography by Phil Babb. ISBN# 1407531417

*Closing Song:*

**The More We Get Together**

[http://bussongs.com/songs/the\\_more\\_we\\_get\\_together.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/the_more_we_get_together.php)

(Blow the train whistle to signal the end of storytime and the beginning of playtime.)

*Closing to Parents:*

Thank you all for coming to storytime today. I hope to see you again next week.

(Bring out toys for a 10-minute playtime session.)

This storytime is based closely on a storytime written by Joshua Mitchell.

# Farm Animals

*Anticipated Length:* 20 Minutes

*Opening:*

“**G**ood Morning. I am very glad you all came. My name is Mrs. Turner. If at any time if your child is unhappy, please feel free to leave. Do not feel like you are a disruption. We want you to know the library is a happy place. Today’s theme is farm animals. They are a lot of fun for babies because images of them are everywhere, especially at the grocery store, and farm animals can often be visited locally.”

*Opening Song:*

**Where Is (insert child’s name here)?** (To the tune of Where Is Thumbkin?)

[http://bussongs.com/songs/where\\_is\\_thumbkin.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/where_is_thumbkin.php)

(Go to each child and play Peek-a-boo as you sing the song. You will need to sing the song several times depending on how many children are present. Encourage parents to sing and play along with their own child and the children sitting next to them.)

*Book Activity:*

**Twinkle, Twinkle: An Animal Lover’s Mother Goose** by Bobbie Fabian. ISBN# 0525459065

*Fingerplay Song:*

(Parents help their child to act out the song’s lyrics.)

**This Little Piggy Went to Market**

[http://bussongs.com/songs/this\\_little\\_piggie.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/this_little_piggie.php)

*Song Activity:*

**Old McDonald Had a Farm**

[http://bussongs.com/songs/old\\_macdonald.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/old_macdonald.php)

*Book Activity:*

**Black on White: Who Are They?** by Tana Hoban. ISBN#688129218

*Song Activity:*

**Five Little Ducks**

<http://www.kididdles.com/lyrics/f005.html>

[http://bussongs.com/songs/five\\_little\\_ducks.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/five_little_ducks.php)

*Closing Song:*

**So Long, Farewell** from the *Sound of Music* Soundtrack

<http://www.stlyrics.com/lyrics/thesoundofmusic/solongfarewell.htm>

*Closing to Parents:*

Parents, the library is open only for parents, caregivers, and children for storytime every Wednesday for you to check out books for you and your child. Please take only two books from the storytime books. You may keep them for one week and bring them back the following Wednesday. Please take a few minutes to see what books we have that you can share at home with your child.

This storytime is based closely on a storytime written by Elizabeth Turner.



Notes

# Food

*Anticipated Length:* 20 Minutes

*Opening:*

(Blow a train whistle to signal that it's time to start.)

“Hello everybody, my name is Josh. Thanks for coming to storytime. The theme for today is Food. The world of taste can be both fun and scary, and babies are just starting to learn what kinds of foods they like, or they simply spit it out all over you! Today let's help babies get more curious about the world of food, and get started with a song.”

*Opening Song:*

**Hello Babies** (Tune of “London Bridge”)

For this simple song you can make up your own fun lyrics.

Like Hello Babies ...  
How's your day?  
Let's go play!  
Say hooray!

*Fingerplay Song:*

(Parents help their child to act out the song's lyrics.)

**A Little Apple Seed** (Tune of “Itsy, Bitsy Spider”)

Once a little apple seed was planted in the ground  
Down came the raindrops, falling all around.  
Out came the big sun, bright as bright could be  
And that little apple seed grew to be an apple tree!

<http://www.preschooleducation.com/sapple.shtml>

*Book Activity:*

**My Very First Book of Food** by Eric Carle. ISBN# 0399247475

*Fingerplay Song:*

(Parents help their child to act out the song's lyrics.)

**Pat a Cake**

[http://bussongs.com/songs/patacake\\_patacake.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/patacake_patacake.php)

*Book Activity:*

**Let's Eat/Vamos a Comer** by Alan Benjamin. ISBN#0671769278

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*Song Activity:*

**The Muffin Man**

[http://bussongs.com/songs/muffin\\_man.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/muffin_man.php)

*Book Activity:*

**All gone!** By Ellio Kreloff. ISBN# 0934618127

*Closing Song:*

**The More We Get Together**

[http://bussongs.com/songs/the\\_more\\_we\\_get\\_together.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/the_more_we_get_together.php)

(Blow the train whistle to signal the end of storytime and the beginning of playtime.)

*Closing to Parents:*

Thank you all for coming to storytime today. I hope to see you again next week.

(Bring out toys for a 10-minute playtime session.)

This storytime is based closely on a storytime written by Joshua Mitchell.

# Hands

*Anticipated Length:* 20 Minutes

*Opening:*

“Welcome to storytime everyone, my name is Stephanie. I am so happy to see everyone today! Today we will be participating in rhyming and fingerplay activities. Please help your child participate as much as you can. You can always leave and come back if your child needs a break.”

*Opening Rhyme:*

(make action indicated by rhyme)

When the sun lights up my room  
 I wake right up and rub my eyes  
 I get up for my breakfast time.  
 I brush my teeth then comb my hair  
 I put on clothes and lace my shoes  
 I run straight away to story time  
 To see my friends and make some rhymes.

*Discussion:*

You may have noticed your baby is experimenting with their sense of touch. As they explore their environment they are using their hands to feel for shapes, textures, and even temperatures. This is why books like *Pat the Bunny* by Dorothy Kunhardt are so much fun for them. Today we are going to help the baby create an awareness of their fingers through some fun songs and games that stimulate this tactile perception.

*Fingerplay Song:*

(Parents help their child to act out the song’s lyrics.)

**Where Are Baby’s Fingers?**

<http://www.thebestkidsbooksite.com/fingerplays-for-kids.cfm>

*Activity:*

**Mirror**

Turn your child to face you and take turns pointing to different parts of your face. This game is not so much for learning the actual names of those parts but experimenting with tactile sensation combined with the use of language. This helps your baby to associate touch with language. Use your own pointer finger to point to the part I call out, and then guide your baby’s fingers to that same part on your face.

*Fingerplay Song:*

**Ten Fingers**

<http://www.thebestkidsbooksite.com/fingerplays-for-kids.cfm>

*Closing Rhyme:*

**Wave Byebye to Storytime** by Stephanie G. Bauman

Storytime's over, but just for today  
So clap your hands and wave byebye  
See you very soon! Until next time!

*Closing to Parents:*

If you want more information or items to take home, I have put out a variety of board books about babies hands and tactile discovery on the back table. I will also be passing out a list of books such as *Ten Little Fingers* by Annie Kubler, that you can find at this library or if you fall in love with them, for purchase at local bookstores or online. See you next week!

This storytime was written by Stephanie G. Bauman.

# Noises

*Anticipated Length:* 20 Minutes

*Opening:*

“Hello, my name is Jake. I’m glad you all could join us here today for the lap-sit storytime. Moms and Dads, please participate as much as you can. If your child gets restless or upset, feel free to get up and walk around for a few minutes. We want all their reading experiences to be positive ones.”

*Opening Song:*

**Hello Babies** (Tune of “London Bridge”)  
For this simple song you can make up your own fun lyrics.

Hello Babies . . .  
How’s your day?  
Let’s go play!  
Say hooray!

*Book Activity:*

**Noisy Farm** by DK Publishing. ISBN: 0756609879

*Fingerplay Poem:*

(Parents help their child to act out the song’s lyrics.)

**Tick Tock** by Gareth Landcaster

<http://www.fizzyfunnyfuzzy.com/showpoem.php?poemID=14>

*Book Activity:*

**My First Nursery Rhymes** illustrated by Bruce Whatley. ISBN#069401205X

*Fingerplay Song:*

(Parents help their child to act out the song’s lyrics.)

**Barnyard Song** (Tune: If you’re happy and you know it)

If you’re a chicken and you know it say “Cluck, cluck.”  
If you’re a chicken and you know it say “Cluck, cluck.”  
If you’re a chicken and you know it, then you really ought to show it,  
If you’re a chicken and you know it say “Cluck, cluck.”  
(repeat song with “pig, say oink, oink”; “cow, say moo, moo”)

*Book Activity:*

**Boom Boom, Beep Beep, Roar!: My Sounds Book** by David Diehl. ISBN# 1600591140

*Closing Song:*

**The More We Get Together**

[http://bussongs.com/songs/the\\_more\\_we\\_get\\_together.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/the_more_we_get_together.php)

*Closing to Parents:*

Thank you very much for coming. Please practice some of these rhymes with you children at home, I think they'll really enjoy it. The familiarity and repetition is good for them. We also have some board books in the back that are great for reading with babies. I hope to see you all again next week!

This storytime is based closely on a storytime written by Jake Sexton.



Notes

# Nursery Rhymes about Children

*Anticipated Length:* 20 Minutes

*Opening:*

“Welcome to Lap-sit Storytime. My name is Kathy and I’m so happy you are all here today. We are sharing rhymes, movement activities, and books. Please participate as much as you can, following along with the movements I make. If your child is not happy, feel free to leave and come back when your child is calmer. Today we are sharing nursery rhymes about children. Babies love the rhythm of these rhymes plus the sound of your voice saying them.”

*Opening Song:*

(Parents help their child to act out the song’s lyrics.)

**Hey, Diddle, Diddle**

[http://bussongs.com/songs/hey\\_diddle\\_diddle.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/hey_diddle_diddle.php)

*Book Activity:*

(Parents help their child to act out the poems.)

**Mary Engelbreit’s Mother Goose: One Hundred Best-Loved Verses** illustrated by Mary Engelbreit. ISBN#0060081716

*Suggestions:*

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Wee Willie Winkie                     | (fingers running, stepping, rapping on palm)  |
| Mary Had a Little Lamb                | (use while lamb puppet to follow hand)  |
| Jack Be Nimble                        | (hand over index finger pointing up)  |
| Simple Simon                          | (put palm out flat, shrug with hands out)   |
| Polly Put the Kettle On               | (put curled hand on palm, take off, blow, hand over brow, blow, mimic drinking tea)             |
| Diddle, Diddle, Dumpling, My Son John | (sleeping motion of head on hands, point to socks and feet)                                     |
| Jack and Jill Went Up the Hill        | (fingers climbing on upward slanted palm, hand on top of head, fingers rolling down palm twice) |

*Book Activity:*

**Little Miss Muffet** by Tracey Campbell Pearson. ISBN# 0374308624

You can use a cute spider puppet to illustrate.

*Closing Activity:*

(Parents help their child to act out various body parts.)

**Peek-a-Boo**

*Closing to Parents:*

Please be sure to read nursery rhymes to your baby. Books of rhymes are here (point to the location near you) for your use at the library or to check out to read at home. This bin has board books for you to share at home with your baby. I have copies of today's storytime for you to take with you also. If you don't have a library card, we are happy to help you get one today. Please join us again next week.

This storytime is based closely on a storytime written by Kathy Burgener.



Notes