Developmentally Appropriate Books, Activities and Storytimes For Four's and Five's

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PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

Selecting and Sharing books With Preschoolers

Tip Sheet

• Use a variety of books with more detail and description and more complex plots than those used for toddlers. They can also contain more characters.

• Pick classic titles - fairy tales and folk tales - along with new titles and old favorites and/or classics

• Share different types of books such as: participation, cumulative, repetitious, rhymed, humorous, nonsense, concept, riddle, poetry, song etc.

• Manipulative books are good for one-on-one sharing or a child’s individual exploration

• Have child make-up stories with wordless books

• In storytimes, introduce a variety of storytelling methods such as: participation stories, magnetic or flannelboard stories, clothesline stories, creative dramatics, puppetry, story songs, rap, etc.

• Children are attracted by books with visually interesting covers & captivating illustrations that are not too small and that are easy to see

• Pick books that you enjoy. If you like the story, your enthusiasm will make the story “come alive” to children

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Great Picture Books for Preschoolers


Ehlert, Lois. *RRalph.* Beach Lane, 2011. Also *Waiting for Wings; Leaf Man* and several others.

Emberley, Rebecca, Adrian & Ed. *There Was An Old Monster.* Orchard, 2009. Several others.


Fox, Mem. *Two Little Monkeys*. Beach Lane, 2012.


Sayre, April Pulley. *Rah, Rah, Radishes!* Beach Lane, 2011. Several others.


Sherry, Kevin. *I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean*. Dial, 2007. Also, *I'm The Best Artist in the Ocean*.


Thomas, Jan. *Is Everyone Ready for Fun?* Beach Lane, 2011. Several others.


Willems, Mo. *The Pigeon Wants A Puppy!* Hyperion, 2008. Also, *Don’t Let The Pigeon Drive the Bus* and *The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog*.


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**Preschool Storytimes - Tip Sheet**

- Have the parent/caregiver present for this program - it is an excellent way to model to the caregiver how to share books, language, and songs and encourage them to extend the experiences at home.

- Programs are *almost always* thematically arranged. Do not be so concerned about a certain theme however, that you pick books that are really unsuitable for group sharing, or are not developmentally appropriate.

- Limit to 20 to 25 caregivers with their preschooler (children can sit in front and caregivers in back or they can sit together but make sure that adults are not blocking children's views. Tell the parents that they are expected to join in with the rhymes and songs and participate in the storytime. This is particularly true if the parents sit in the back and not with their child, so that they are not talking to other parents, causing you to lose control of the program.)

- Programs usually last 30 to 45 minutes

- Begin with an opening finger rhyme or song and/or by introducing the theme. Alternate 3 or 4 stories with one or two activities such as: active rhymes, finger rhymes, creative dramatics, poems, or songs. Use various methods of storytelling to tell those stories with at least one story more visual through the use of a flannel or magnetic board, puppet, tell-and-draw story, etc. (Make sure you tell one or two stories with the book.) Have children do an activity which allows them to stretch or be active midway through the program.

- Include an art activity, or other open-ended, hands-on activity at the end if desired.
Preschool Storytimes

Suggested Template

Opener (Song or Rhyme but song is suggested. Use same opener every week.)

Book (Use your longest story here)

Fingerplays, Rhymes, Songs, or Creative Dramatics
(Use 2 or 3 Different Activities - a Combination of the Above)

Book (Make sure this book or the one that follows is a “participation story”)

Fingerplays, Rhymes, Songs, or Creative Dramatics
(Use 2 or 3 Different Activities - a Combination of the Above.
Make sure one activity/song gets them up and moving)

Book (Make sure this book or the one above is a “participation story”)

Fingerplays, Rhymes, Songs, or Creative Dramatics
(Use 2 or 3 Different Activities - a Combination of the Above)

Closing Song or Rhyme

Activity Optional - can be open-ended art, educational toys etc.

If children are experienced with storytime and are good listeners, add one
more book followed by 2 activities. I recommend not reading/sharing two
books in a row. You might consider one age/developmentally appropriate
nonfiction book.

Please Note: This is just one suggested template - you may develop other
models once you are comfortable doing programs, or other suggested models
may work better for you.

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Bears - Sample Preschool Storytime

Opening Rhyme
Hands on head, hands on knees,
Hands behind you if you please.
Hands on tummy, hands on toes,
Hands on cheeks, hands on nose.
Hands wave high in the air,
Hands on shoulders, hands on hair
Clap your hands, one, two, three,
Now rest your hands on your knees.

Puppet - Introduce the storytime theme with the bear puppet.


Creative Dramatics - Have children pantomime the actions of Goldilocks.
Look in the window of the bears' house, open the door, try the three bowls of porridge, sit on the three chairs (the third chair breaks!), try the three beds and fall asleep on the third bed. Snore until you hear the bears return, and then jump out the window to escape. OR Act out the entire story using the jazzy "The Three Bears" song found on the recording Teddy Bears’ Picnic by Gary Rosen.


Fingerplay - Five Teddy Bears in Mitt Magic by Lynda Roberts.
One little teddy bear, finding things to do.
Along came another. Then there were two.
Two busy teddy bears, climbing up to see.
Along came another. Then there were three.
Three lively teddy bears liked to explore.
Along came another. Then there were four.
Four hungry teddy bears, eating honey from a hive.
Along came another. Then there were five.
Five tired hone bears had fun today.
They'll be back tomorrow, and you can see them play.

**Action Rhyme** - "Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear"
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn around,
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, touch the ground,
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, rub your nose,
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, touch your toes,
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, climb the stairs,
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, brush your hair,
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn out the light,
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, say good night.

**Picture Book Story** - *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*

**Creative Dramatics** - Act out the above story - Go on a Bear Hunt


**Closing Song or Rhyme** (same each week if there is a series)

**Optional Art** - Teddy Bear Finger Puppet. Make a cardboard bear finger puppet pattern for each child out of poster board or a file folder. Children can decorate it with markers, crayons, stickers etc. An adult can cut two round holes large enough for the child's fingers at the bottom of the bear. Children can then put their fingers through the holes in the puppet for the bear's legs.

**Optional Math** - Compare the teddy bears by size and shape. Which is the largest? Smallest? Tallest?

**NOTE:** Announce ahead of time for children to bring a teddy bear with them for the teddy bear storytime. Have extras on hand for children who do not have a teddy bear or if they forget their teddy bear.
Musical Recordings For Young Children

Debbie Clement

Greg & Steve

Jack Grunsky

Jim Gill

Peter and Ellen Allard

Joanie Bartels

Laurie Berkner

Kidzup. (Rock-A-Tot etc)

Kimbo – Four Baby Bumblebees; Five Little Monkeys; Six Little Ducks etc.

Learning Station

Peter Paul & Mommy

Raffi

Stephanie Burton

Sugar Beats

Toddlers Sing

WEE SING

The Wiggles

Dr. Jean Feldman

Hap Palmer

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Sample Music Activities Developmentally Appropriate
For Preschoolers

• Love all kinds of musical instruments!
• Dance with streamers, scarves
• Water Bottle Shakers – small water bottles filled with beans
• Jar Ring/Lid Streamers to make and use with music
• Parachute games to music
• Bean bags
• Egg shakers
• “Freeze” songs
• Echo Songs

Sample Art/Play Activities Developmentally Appropriate
For Preschoolers

***Please remember for Art – Purpose is for CREATING rather than the END PRODUCT***

***Avoid Coloring Sheets!***

Art materials - crayons, markers, colored pencils, fingerpaints, paste and glue, modeling clay or play dough, block printing

1. Make Books – Bright construction Paper / Rounded edges
2. Flap Books
3. Texture Rubbings - tape corners of paper to work surface - use cardboard shapes
4. Finger Painting - whipped crème with food coloring/pudding
5. Fruit Loop & Cheerios Art/Necklaces
6. Shape Collage - Shapes from brightly colored paper - place on contact paper & cover with another piece of contact paper /or glue on black construction paper. Can also use colored cellophane on contact paper, then cover with
clear contact on top. Or trace around shapes on white construction paper and color.

7. Tissue Paper Collage - also can be done on contact paper
8. Cookie Cutter Puzzles
9. Tape pictures - cut masking tape or colored duct tapes into pieces of various lengths. Put the pieces on the edges of a plastic lid (one for each child). Let child place tape pieces on a piece of construction paper.
10. Cotton ball clouds or lambs (clouds or lambs cut out of self-stick paper)
11. Sticker Art - use address mailing labels; colored band-aids; computer diskette sticker labels; star stickers; colored dot stickers; sheets of stickers
12. Cellophane Stockings - cut foot off nylon panty hose for each child (or cut a non-foot section and tie knots at each end. Stuff it with colored pieces of cellophane.
13. Envelope - find the letter game
14. Make paper bag puppets - NOT ALL LOOK ALIKE - allow for creativity
15. Sand and water play AND bubbles!
16. Puzzles - 12 to 50 pieces
17. Enjoy color mixing activities
18. Stick Puppet Masks
19. Tongue depressor sticker puppets
20. Goop!

Resources

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Programming for Preschoolers


Finger/Lap/Play/Action Rhymes & Songs


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**Music Resources**


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### Websites

#### Ordering Music


#### Ordering Instruments

2. Lakeshore - [http://www.lakeshorelearning.com/home/home.jsp](http://www.lakeshorelearning.com/home/home.jsp)
Resources for Art


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