

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Summer can be the perfect time to encourage families to be involved in literature experiences together. These programs are designed to appeal to families with children of different ages and can be done in the evenings or on weekends to give families the most opportune times to participate.

Title: Look What's Growing!

Target Audience: Preschoolers, age 3 and older, and their families

Books to Share and Display:

Brett, Jan. *The Mitten*.
Carle, Eric. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.
Davis, Aubrey. *The Enormous Potato*.
De Paola, Tomie. *Strega Nona*.
Duncan, Lois. *The Longest Hair in the World*.
Evans, Katie. *Hunky Dory Ate It*.
Ginsburg, Mirra. *Mushroom in the Rain*.
Kent, Jack. *Round Robin*.
Macdonald, Margaret Read. *Fat Cat*.
Nolen, Jerdine. *Harvey Potter's Balloon Farm*.
Palmer, Helen. *Fish Out of Water*.

Action Rhymes, Songs and Poems:

“Balloons” (traditional)

This is the way we blow our balloons, blow, blow, blow.
(*Pretend to blow, rounding hands as if holding a balloon,
spreading further and further apart.*)
This is the way we break our balloons. Oh! Oh! Oh!
(*Clap hands together on each “Oh!”*)

“Five Little Robins” (traditional)

Five little robins lived in a tree.
Father, Mother and babies three. (*Raise five fingers*)
Father caught a worm. (*Form a beak with fingers and peck.*)
Mother caught a bug.
The three little robins began to tug.
This one got a bug.
This one got a worm.
This one said, “Now it's my turn.”

“Fuzzy Wuzzy Caterpillar” (traditional)

Fuzzy wuzzy caterpillar
Into a leaf will creep.
He’ll spin himself a blanket
And then go fast asleep.
Fuzzy wuzzy caterpillar
Wakes up by and by
To find he has wings of beauty
Because he’s a butterfly!

Activities:

Children and parents join hands in a tight circle. See how big the circle can grow.

Children curl up into tiny balls. Then they stand and stretch their arms as high as they can.

Crafts:

“Bursting Mittens.” *Crafts From Your Favorite Children’s Stories*, pp. 43-44.

“Funny Potato Face.” *Storytimes for Two-Year-Olds*, pg. 110.

Nonprint Resources:

(VHS) Barney. *When I Grow Up*. Lyons Group, 1992.

(VHS) Caillou. *I Want to Grow Up*. CINDAR Corp., 2002.

(CASS) Kidsongs. *What I Want to Be When I Grow Up*. Warner Bros., 1992.

(CD) Persuasions. *On the Good Ship Lollipop*. Music for Little People, 1999 (“On Top of Spaghetti”).

(CASS) Raffi. *Everything Grows*. Shoreline, 1987.

(CD) Raffi. *Singable Songs For the Very Young*. Rounder, 1996 (“Down by the Bay”).

Websites and Professional Resources:

Ross, Kathy. *Crafts From Your Favorite Children’s Stories*. Millbrook, 2001.

Nichols, Judy. *Storytimes for Two-Year-Olds*. Second Ed. ALA, 1998.

Title: A Visit to a Garden

Target Audience: Preschoolers, age 3 and older, and their families

Books to Share and Display:

Brisson, Pat. *Wanda's Roses*.
Bunting, Eve. *Flower Garden*.
Butterworth, Nick. *Jasper's Beanstalk*.
Cole, Babette. *Trouble with Grandad*.
Ehlert, Lois. *Growing Vegetable Soup*.
Fleming, Candace. *Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!*
French, Vivian. *Oliver's Vegetable Garden*.
Hurd, Thatcher. *Pea Patch Jig*.
Mallett, David. *Inch by Inch: The Garden Song*.
Morgan, Pierr. *The Turnip*.
Petricic, Dusan. *The Enormous Potato*.

Action Rhymes, Songs and Poems:

“Grow Grow Grow.” *Storytimes for Two-Year-Olds*, pg. 109.

“Itsy Bitsy Spider” (traditional)

The itsy bitsy spider
Went up the waterspout.
Down came the rain
And washed the spider out.
Out came the sun
And dried up all the rain.
And the itsy bitsy spider
Went up the spout again.

“Flutter, Flutter, Butterfly” (tune: “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”)

Flutter, flutter, butterfly. (*Make hands flutter.*)
Floating in the summer sky.
Floating by for all to see,
Floating by so merrily.
Flutter, flutter, butterfly.

“The Bee Hive” (traditional)

Here is the beehive. (*Make a fist.*)
Where are the bees?
Hidden away where nobody sees. (*Place other hand over fist.*)
Watch and you’ll see them come out of the hive. (*Look into fists.*)
One, two, three, four, five. (*Move fingers out of inner fist.*)
Bzzzzzz ... all fly away! (*Wiggle fingers as arm stretches outward.*)

Activities:

“The Gardener’s Mulberry Bush” (*Stand in a circle.*)
(*Children can choose beforehand what they wish to plant.*)
This is the way we dig a hole, dig a hole, dig a hole so early
in the morning.
This is the way we drop in a seed ...
This is the way we cover it up ...
This is the way we water the ground
This is the way we hoe the weeds ...
This is the way we pick the carrots ...
This is the way we eat the carrots so early in the morning.

Have children and parents stand in a circle and decide what they wish to plant.
Pantomime the planting actions in the song, going around the circle so that each child has
a turn to suggest a different plant. Modify the final lines as appropriate.

“Let’s Grow the Grain” (tune: “The Farmer in the Dell”)

The farmer rakes the ground (*repeat*). Heigh-ho! The Derry O!
The farmer rakes the ground (*Make raking motion.*)
The farmer sows the seeds ... (*Scatter seeds.*)
The wind begins to blow ... (*Blow.*)
The rain begins to fall ... (*Wiggle fingers downward.*)
The sun begins to shine ... (*Make an arch of your arms above your head.*)
The seeds begin to grow ... (*Cup hands on the floor, draw them upward.*)
The farmer cuts the grain ... (*Be the farmer with the scythe.*)
The farmer gathers the grain ... (*Pretend to pick up the grain in your
arms.*)
And now the harvest’s in. (*Walk around in the circle.*)
Hurrah! (*Raise hands in the air.*)

Have the children and parents stand in a circle and act out the verses.

Craft: Growing Sunflowers

Materials:

1 green paper cup per child
1 dowel or long flat stick per child
1 bag of sunflower seeds
1 piece of heavy yellow paper per child
Tissue paper or light paper for extra petals
Green markers
White craft glue or glue sticks
Tape
Child safety scissors

Directions:

Cut paper in the shape of a sunflower.
Add extra petals (if desired).
Glue seeds to the center of the flower.
Color stem green (if desired).
Tape flower to the stem.
Poke hole in the bottom of the cup.
Insert stem into cup. Push up to make the flower grow.

Nonprint Resources:

(VHS) *I Can Do It!* Together Again Video Prod., 1998.
(CD) *Piggyback Songs: Singable Poems Set to Favorite Tunes*. Kimbo, 1995
("Vegetable Soup," "Vegetables," and "Flower Garden").

Websites and Professional Resources:

www.preschooleducation.com

Nichols, Judy. *Storytimes for Two-Year-Olds*. American Library Association, 1987.

Title: Into the Woods

Target Audience: Preschoolers, age 3 and older, and their families

Books to Share and Display:

Alborough, Jez. *Where's My Teddy?*
Arnosky, Jim. *Otters under Water.*
Arnosky, Jim. *Raccoon on His Own.*
Hendra, Sue. *Oliver's Wood.*
Kindley, Jeffrey. *Scamper's Year.*
Lyon, George Ella. *Counting on the Wood.*
Peet, Bill. *Big Bad Bruce.*
Rockwell, Anne. *Growing Like Me.*
Sanders, Scott R. *Meeting Trees.*
Schaefer, Carole. *Down in the Woods at Sleepytime.*
Simon, James. *The Wild Woods.*
Tafari, Nancy. *Mama's Little Bear.*

Action Rhymes, Songs and Poems:

“Grey Squirrel” (traditional)

Grey Squirrel, Grey Squirrel (*Suit actions to words.*)
Wiggle your little nose.
Grey Squirrel, Grey Squirrel
Hold a nut between your toes.
Grey Squirrel, Grey Squirrel
swish your bushy tail.
Grey Squirrel, Grey Squirrel
hop on down the trail.

“See the Fluffy Rabbit” (tune: "I'm a Little Teapot")

See the fluffy rabbit as it hops, (*Make one hand hop along.*)
One ear up while the other flops. (*Place one hand straight above head,
while the other flops down.*)
He's a gentle fellow with a twitchy nose. (*Make nose twitch with a
finger.*)
He's all furry from his ears to his toes. (*Brush arm as if to pet a rabbit.*)

“The Bear Went Over the Mountain” (traditional)

The bear went over the mountain (3 times)
To see what he could see.
The other side of the mountain (3 times)
Was all that he did see.

Activities:

Act out “A Bear Hunt,” *We’re Going On a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen.

Sing favorite folksongs around a pretend campfire.

Craft: Pop-up Trees

Materials:

1 brown piece of construction paper for each child
1 green piece of construction paper for each child
Different colors of construction paper
Child safety scissors
Crayons or markers
White craft glue or glue sticks

Directions:

Fold the brown piece of construction paper and the color of choice in half.
On the brown piece, make four short, parallel cuts along the fold line.
The cuts should be in two pairs.
Fold over the flaps that the cuts formed.
Unfold the folds you just made and open up the paper.
Push up the flaps made by the cuts. These are the tree trunks.
Close the paper so that the flaps are inside the paper.
Cut out two evergreen-tree shapes (triangles) from the green paper.
Glue them to the top of paper trunks.
Close the paper when glue is dry.
Decorate the uncut piece of construction paper on the outside.
Glue the other piece of paper to the outside.
Open the paper and see the trees pop up!

Nonprint Resources:

(VHS) *Barney's Campfire Sing-Along*. Lyons Group, 1990.

(CD) *Disney Travel Songs*. Walt Disney Records, 1994 (“Over the River and through the Woods”).

(CD) Schontz, Bill. *Teddy Bear's Greatest Hits*. Bearpaw Recordings, 1997 (“Teddy Bears' Picnic”).

Websites and Professional Resources:

www.EnchantedLearning.com/crafts/christmas/popuptree/

Title: Being Green

Target Audience: Preschoolers, age 3 and older, and their families

Books to Share and Display:

Arnold, Tedd. *Green Wilma.*
Cannon, Jannell. *Verdi.*
Caseley, Judith. *Mr. Green Peas.*
Emberley, Ed. *Go Away, Big Green Monster.*
Gage, William. *Mrs. Gaddy and the Fast-Growing Vine.*
Grey, Libba Moore. *A Small Green Snake.*
James, Betty. *Tadpoles.*
Seuss, Dr. *Green Eggs and Ham.*

Action Rhymes, Songs and Poems :

“Five Fat Peas” (traditional)

Five fat peas in a pea pod pressed (*Hand in a fist.*)
One grew, two grew, and so did all the rest. (*Fingers pop up one at a time.*)
They grew and they grew, (*Raise hand slowly.*)
And they did not stop
Until the day
The pod went POP! (*Clap!*)

“Five Little Freckled Frogs” (traditional)

Five little freckled frogs (*Hold up five fingers*)
Sitting on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious bugs. Yum! Yum! (*Rub tummy.*)
One jumped into the pool (*Make jumping motion with hand.*)
Where it was nice and cool
Then there were four freckled frogs. (*Hold up four fingers.*)

Craft: Mr. Green

Materials:

When publicizing the program, request that parents bring one knee-high nylon stocking for each child.

Boxes or paper plates
1 bag of hamster-bedding cedar chips
1 bag of grass seed
Wiggly eyes
Felt scraps
White craft glue or glue sticks
Child safety scissors

Directions:

Mix a little grass seed into hamster chips.
Stuff the foot of the sock with the mixture over a box or paper plate to contain the mess.
Tie a knot above the mixture.
Cut nose and mouth shapes from the felt scraps.
Glue them with the eyes onto the sock.
The top of the sock can be used to tie it to a branch outdoors where, with the help of a little watering or rain, green “hair” will grow.

Nonprint Resources:

- (CD) Buck, Dennis. *Five Little Monkeys: Songs for Singing and Playing*. Kimbo, 1999.
- (CD) Greg and Steve. *Rockin' Down the Road*. Youngheart Music, 1995 (“Green Grass Grew All Around”).
- (VHS) *It's Not Easy Being Green*. Jim Henson Productions, 1994.
- (VHS) VHS *Red Light, Green Light*. Radical Sheep Prod., 1996.

Websites and Professional Resources:

www.enchantedlearning.com/colors/green.shtml

Title: Kangaroos for You

Target Audience: Preschoolers, age 3 and older, and their families

Books to Share and Display:

Clarke, Emma Chichester. *I Love You, Blue Kangaroo.*
Clarke, Emma Chichester. *It Was You, Blue Kangaroo.*
Jansen, John. *Playing Possum: Riddles about Kangaroos.*
Markle, Sandra. *Outside and inside Kangaroos.*
McKee, David. *Elmer and the Kangaroo.*
Swinburne, Stephen. *Safe, Warm, and Snug.*
Vaughn, Marcia K. *Snap!*

Poem:

“The Kangaroo.” *Time for Poetry*, pg. 60.

Activities:

Show pictures of real kangaroos in Sandra Markle’s *Outside and inside Kangaroos.*

Show a map of the world, pointing out Australia and its relationship to the United States.

Parachute toss, using a toy kangaroo or other stuffed animal.

Have each child hold one handle or the edge of a nylon parachute.

Have them practice moving the parachute up and down.

When they have a good rhythm going, add the stuffed toy to the center.

Have them try to keep the stuffed toy in the air.

Craft: Kangaroo and Joey

Materials:

Plain white cover-stock paper (8 ½ by 11 inches)
Kangaroo pattern*
Crayons or washable markers
Child safety scissors

Directions:

Ahead of time, photocopy the pattern onto the cover stock, or have the children trace the kangaroo.
Have the adults cut along the dotted line to make a slit in the kangaroo's pocket.
Cut out kangaroos.
Color the kangaroos.
Have adults draw a smiley face on each child's index finger with a washable marker.
When they poke their fingers through the slit in the kangaroos pocket, it will look like the joey is in its mother's pocket.

Professional Resources:

Arbuthnot, May Hill (compiler). *Time for Poetry*. Scott, Foresman, 1952.

Markle, Sandra. *Outside and inside Kangaroos*. Atheneum, 1999.

*Kangaroo pattern: <http://pcdl.lib.oh.us/summer/color/kangaroo.htm>

Title: Beanstalks!

Target Audience: Preschoolers, age 3 and older, and their families

Books to Share and Display:

Steig, Jeanne. *A Handful of Beans: Six Fairy Tales*.

Kellogg, Steven. *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

Howe, John. *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

McKay, Sindy. *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

Sanfield Steve. *Just Rewards, or, Who Is That Man in the Moon & What's He Doing up There Anyway?*

Osborne, Mary Pope. *Kate and the Beanstalk*.

Action Rhymes, Songs and Poems :

“Fee, Fie, Foe, Fum,” and “Growth.” *Ring a Ring O’Roses: Finger Plays for Preschool Children*, pp. 34 and 49.

Activities:

“Jack and the Beanstalk.” *Puppet Plays for Young Players*, pg. 109.

Craft:

“Newspaper Beanstalk,” (aka “Palm Tree”). *Activities for Anyone, Anytime, Anywhere*, pg. 53.

Nonprint Resources:

(CASS) *English Fairy Tales*. Spoken Arts.

(CASS) Weiss, Jim. *Giants! a Colossal Collection of Tales & Tunes*. Greathall Productions.

(VHS) Sondheim, Stephen. *Into the Woods*. Image Entertainment.

(VHS) *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Rabbit Ears Productions.

(VHS) *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Playhouse Video.

(CASS) Davis, Donald. *Jack Tales: More Than a Beanstalk*. Weston Woods, 1985.

Websites and Professional Resources:

<http://www-dept.usm.edu/~engdept/jack/jackhome.html> A text and image archive containing several English versions of the fairy tale.

<http://www.abcteach.com/FairyTales/beans.htm> A science project with beans to go with the beanstalk.

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/1132/jackbeanstalk.html> A short Jack and the Beanstalk play.

http://www.first-school.ws/activities/fairytales/jack_beanstalk.htm activities with dramatic play, printable crafts and a coloring page.

Ring a Ring O'Roses: Finger Plays for Preschool Children. Flint Public Library, 1996.

Mahlmann, Lewis. *Puppet Plays for Young Players.* Plays, 1974.

Robinson, Jeri. *Activities for Anyone, Anytime, Anywhere.* Little Brown, 1983.

Title: Peter Rabbit in Mr. McGregor's Garden

Target Audience: Preschoolers, age 3 and older, and their families

Books to Share and Display:

Ada, Alma Flor. *Dear Peter Rabbit.*
Yours Truly, Goldilocks.
Potter, Beatrix. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit.*
The Tale of Benjamin Bunny.
The Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies.

Action Rhymes, Songs and Poems:

“Bunnies,” “Little Rabbit,” “Once I Saw a Bunny,” and “Tired Bunnies.” *Ring a Ring O'Roses: Finger Plays for Preschool Children*, pp. 12, 73, 88 and 120.

Activities:

“The Tale of Peter Rabbit.” *Puppet Plays from Favorite Stories: 18 Royalty-Free Plays for Hand Puppets, Rod Puppets, or Marionettes*, pg. 163.

Crafts:

“Hide Peter in the Watering Can Puppet.” *Crafts From Your Favorite Children's Stories*, pp. 23-25.

“Toilet Paper Roll Rabbits.” *The Kids Can Press Jumbo Book of Easy Crafts*, pg. 44.

Nonprint Resources:

(CASS) McGrath, Bob. *Sing Along with Bob*, vol. 2. Golden, 1996.
(VHS) Royal Ballet. *Tales of Beatrix Potter*. Cannon Video 1971.
(VHS) *The Tailor of Gloucester by Beatrix Potter*. GoodTimes Home Video.
(VHS) *The Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher and The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Rabbit Ears Productions.
(VHS) *The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle and Mr. Jeremy Fisher by Beatrix Potter*. GoodTimes Home Video, 1993.
(VHS) *The Tale of Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny by Beatrix Potter*. GoodTimes Home Video.
(CASS) *The Tale of Peter Rabbit and Four Other Stories by Beatrix Potter*. Caedmon.
(CASS) *The Tale of Peter by Beatrix Potter*. Recorded Books.

(VHS) *The Tale of Pigling by Beatrix Potter*. GoodTimes Home Video.
(VHS) *The Tale of Samuel Whiskers, or, The Roly Poly Pudding by Beatrix Potter*. GoodTimes Home Video, 1993.
(VHS) *The Tale of Tom Kitten and Jemima Puddle-Duck by Beatrix Potter*. GoodTimes Home Video, 1993.
(CASS) *Treasury of Animal Stories, v.1-2 . Tales of Mister Rabbit and His Friends*. Spoken Arts Records, 1976.

Websites and Professional Resources:

<http://www.peterrabbit.com>

Games, coloring pages, word finds in several languages, based on The Tale of Peter Rabbit.

Emerson, Anne, editor. *The History of the Tale of Peter Rabbit: Taken Mainly from Leslie Linder's A History of the Writings of Beatrix Potter*. F. Warne, 1977.

Mahlmann, Lewis and David Cadwalader Jones. *Puppet Plays from Favorite Stories: 18 Royalty-Free Plays for Hand Puppets, Rod Puppets, or Marionettes*. Plays, 1977.

Ross, Kathy. *Crafts from Your Favorite Children's Stories*. Millbrook, 2001.

Ring a Ring O'Roses: Finger Plays for Preschool Children. Flint Public Library, 1996.

Sadler, Judy Ann. *The Kids Can Press Jumbo Book of Easy Crafts*. Kids Can Press, c2001.

Taylor, Judy. *That Naughty Rabbit: Beatrix Potter and Peter Rabbit*. F. Warne, 1987.