

Opening the Gift

Songs & Fingerplays

Spider Dance

[Tune: *Farmer in the Dell*]

Spiders crawl around,
[children crawl around]

Spiders crawl around,
[children crawl around]

Spiders, spiders make a web,
Spiders circle 'round.
[spin around]

Spiders up and down,
[stand up, bend down]

Spiders up and down,
[stand up, bend down]

Spiders, spiders make a web,
Spiders circle 'round.
[spin around]

Rhyme Jump Like a Frog

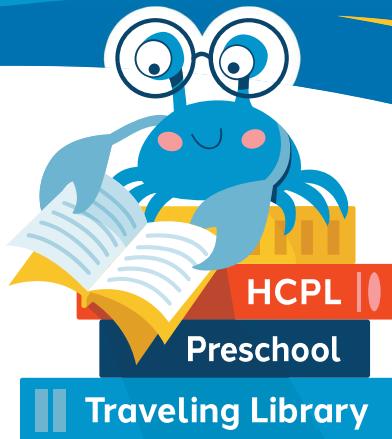
[follow actions]

Jump like a frog. Stretch like a cat.
Hop like a bunny. Flap like a bat.
Wiggle like a worm. Slither like a snake.
Be a wet dog and shake, shake, shake!

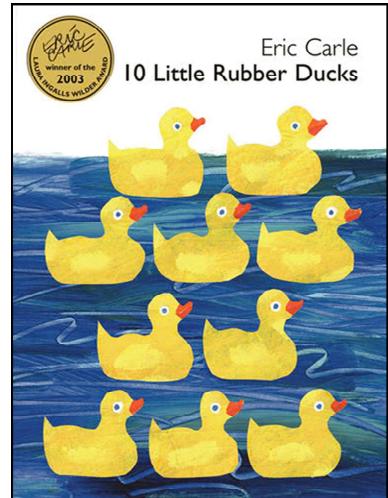
Two Little Feet

[follow actions]

Two little feet go stamp, stamp, stamp
Two little hands go clap, clap, clap
One little body stands up straight
One little body goes round and round
One little body sits quietly down.



January 2026



Eric Carle
10 Little Rubber Ducks

Theme: Author Spotlight – Eric Carle

Books to Share

This month we are celebrating the work of author and illustrator Eric Carle. Carle wrote more than 70 children's books, and his distinctive artistic style is unforgettable. For this author spotlight we will join a hard-working spider in *The Very Busy Spider*, many active animals in *Head to Toe*, a curious child and his papa in *Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me*, and some adventurous ducks in *Ten Rubber Ducks*. Join us as we sing, celebrate, and enjoy Eric Carle.

From Head to Toe, by Eric Carle

The Very Busy Spider, by Eric Carle

Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me, by Eric Carle

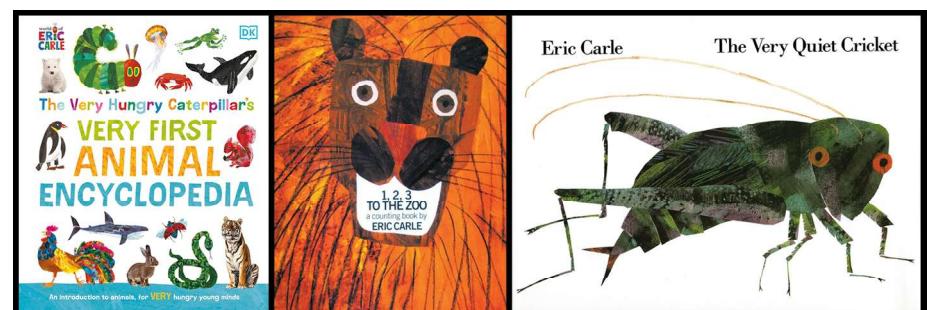
10 Little Rubber Ducks, by Eric Carle

Music: "Knees Up Mother Brown"

from *Kids Songs Jubilee*

by Nancy Cassidy

Looking for more book ideas? Check these out!



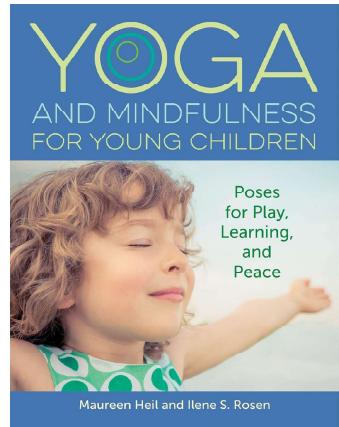
Harford County
Public Library

HCPLonline.org

Book of the Month from the Parent Teacher Collection

Yoga and Mindfulness for Young Children: Poses for Play, Learning, and Peace Maureen Heil

Why is yoga good for young children? How can you introduce yoga into your classroom? How do you teach yoga breathing and yoga poses? This book will answer those questions and more, explaining about using yoga in your classroom, and including activities for children of differing abilities.



More Rhymes

I Wiggle

[follow actions]

I wiggle my fingers
I wiggle my toes
I wiggle my shoulders
I wiggle my nose
Now the wiggles are out of me
And I am as still as still can be

Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went out to play.

[hold up 5 fingers]

Over the hills and far away.

*["waddle" the fingers
behind your back]*

Mother duck called quack, quack,
quack.

Four little ducks came waddling back
["waddle" four fingers back]

[Repeat with 4, 3, and 2 ducks]

One little duck went out to play ...

No little ducks came waddling back

[repeat with 1 & 0 fingers]

Sad mother duck went out to play
And all 5 little ducks came waddling
back.

[waddle all 5 fingers back]

For more information,
visit us at hcplmd.org/otg!



Try a Fun Activity

The Disappearing Snow Pal

Science Activity: Making Predictions
and Observing Changes



Directions:

Stack 2 ice cubes in each of 2 clear plastic cups. On the outside of each cup, draw an outline around the cubes and then add snow pal details to the shape. Place 1 of the cups in a freezer and leave 1 in the classroom.

Next, have the children share their predictions about what will happen to the snow pals as time passes. Be sure to ask the children why they think their predictions will happen.

When you notice the classroom snow pal has melted a bit, gather the children to take a look, compare the height of the snow pal to the drawn outline, and reevaluate their predictions.

Then compare the classroom snow pal to the freezer snow pal. Guide the children to understand how the warmth in the room contributed to the ice melting.

<https://www.themailbox.com/products/260467-pre-k-kindergarten-science-idea-the-#>



Try acting out a story with your child, taking on the roles of different characters. Even if your child cannot act out or retell a longer story, see if they can repeat a phrase or action. This kind of dramatic play is one way that children internalize and understand the story.

Providing props and toys for children to retell a story as they play is one way to help them understand the story. You may ask a question or two that helps them build on the story. Follow your child's lead.



Questions or suggestions?

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