

Fish Stories

From: *Toddler Storytimes II*. By Diane Briggs. Illustrations by Thomas Briggs, (2008). The Scarecrow Press, Inc. : Maryland. pp.15, 17-21.

Enjoy stories of whoppers and underwater adventures. Introduce the storytime with a fish or sea-creature puppet. Have the puppet sing along to a recording of "Three Little Fishies," and give the toddlers egg shakers to shake to the music. Next, show the kids how to go fishing in a wading pool and catch some magnetic fish. If you still have time for more fun, do the "fish with shiny scales" craft.

Suggested Books

- Barner, Bob. *Fish Wish*. New York: Holiday House, 2000.
- Carle, Eric. *Mr. Seahorse*. New York: Philomel, 2004.
- Cousins, Lucy. *Hooray for Fish!* Cambridge, Mass.: Candlewick, 2005.
- Kalan, Robert. *Blue Sea*. New York: Scholastic, 1979.
- MacDonald, Suse. *Sea Shapes*. San Diego, Calif.: Harcourt Brace, 1994.
- Van Laan, Nancy. *Little Fish Lost*. New York: Atheneum, 1998.
- Wood, Audrey. *Ten Little Fish*. New York: Blue Sky, 2004.
- Wu, Norbert. *Fish Faces*. New York: Holt, 1993.

Fingerplays and Rhymes

Five Little Fishes
(adapted folk rhyme)

Five little fishes
(hold up five fingers and count down as fish disappear)

Swimming in the sea,
Teasing Mr. Crocodile,
You can't catch me.
(wag one finger)
Along comes Crocodile
(form crocodile jaws with two hands)
As quiet as can be . . .
SNAP!
(clap hands shut)

Four little fishes
(hold up four fingers)
Swimming in the sea,
(finish the verse as above)

(Continue until there are no fish left . . . "No little fishes swimming in the sea." Change the crocodile to a shark or octopus if desired.)

Catching a Fish
(Mother Goose)

One, Two, Three, Four, Five,
(count fingers on left hand)
I caught a little fish alive.
(catch fingers on right hand with left hand)
Why did you let it go?
(release fingers quickly)
Because it bit my fingers so.
(shake right hand)
Which finger did it bite?
The little finger on the right.
(point to little finger on right hand)

Slippery Fish
(folk rhyme)

Slippery fish, slippery fish,
(place palms together and make wavy swimming motions)
Sliding through the water.
Slippery fish, slippery fish,
(wavy motions)
Glub, glub, glub.
(open and close palms; repeat)

Songs

Three Little Fishies
(by Josephine Judson Carringer;
see song discography for tune)

Down in the meadow in a little bitty pool
Swam three little fishies and a mama fishie too.
"Swim," said the mama fishie, "Swim if you can,"
And they swam and they swam all over the dam.
Boop boop dit-tem dat-tem what-tem Chu!
Boop boop dit-tem dat-tem what-tem Chu!
Boop boop dit-tem dat-tem what-tem Chu!
And they swam and they swam all over the dam.
"Stop," said the mama fishie, "or you will get
lost."
The three little fishies didn't wanna be bossed.
The three little fishies went off on a spree,
And they swam and they swam right out to
the sea.
Boop boop dit-tem dat-tem what-tem Chu!

Boop boop dit-tem dat-tem what-tem Chu!
Boop boop dit-tem dat-tem what-tem Chu!
And they swam and they swam right out to
the sea.

"Whee!" yelled the little fishies, "Here's a lot
of fun.
We'll swim in the sea till the day is done."
They swam and they swam, and it was a lark
Till all of a sudden they saw a shark!
Boop boop dit-tem dat-tem what-tem Chu!
Boop boop dit-tem dat-tem what-tem Chu!
Boop boop dit-tem dat-tem what-tem Chu!
Till all of a sudden they saw a shark!

"Help!" cried the little fishies, "Gee! look at all
the whales!"
And quick as they could, they turned on their
tails
And back to the pool in the meadow they swam,
And they swam and they swam back over
the dam.
Boop boop dit-tem dat-tem what-tem Chu!
Boop boop dit-tem dat-tem what-tem Chu!
Boop boop dit-tem dat-tem what-tem Chu!
And they swam and they swam back over
the dam.

(Idea: Give the toddlers egg shakers to shake
along to the song as you sing or play a recording
of the music.)

(Additional songs: You'll find "Baby Beluga" on
Raffi's CD *Raffi on Broadway*. Other selections are
the Beatles' "Octopus's Garden" and Disney's
"Under the Sea" from the *Little Mermaid* CD.)

Activity: Go Fish

Make twenty or more fish out of heavy paper of
different colors, and decorate attractively. There
should be one fish for each child. Stick inexpen-
sive magnets on the fish. Place them in a child's
wading pool (without water). Make fishing poles
using cardboard tubes and yarn. Tie large paper
clips to the end of the yarn. Let the toddlers take
turns fishing, and allow each child to take a pole
and one fish home.

Treats

To end the fishing activity, offer a snack of goldfish crackers and juice. Small cups of blue Jell-O in clear cups with gummy fish set in the gelatin are also a fun treat option.

Flannel-Board Poem

Red Fish, Red Fish

Red Fish, Red Fish, what do you see,
Way down deep in the deep, blue sea?
I see a yellow starfish looking at me.
Yellow Starfish, Yellow Starfish, what do you see,
Way down deep in the deep, blue sea?
I see a pink seahorse looking at me.

Pink Seahorse, Pink Seahorse, what do you see,
Way down deep in the deep, blue sea?
I see a green turtle looking at me.

Green Turtle, Green Turtle, what do you see,
Way down deep in the deep blue sea?
I see a purple octopus looking at me.

Purple Octopus, Purple Octopus, what do
you see,
Way down deep in the deep, blue sea?
I see a blue shark looking at me! Swim away!
Swim away!

Blue Shark, Blue Shark, what do you see,
Way down deep in the deep, blue sea?
I see I'm ALL ALONE (sigh) in the deep,
blue sea.

Directions

Place the sea creatures on the flannel board on cue according to the poem. After the shark appears, remove all creatures except the shark.

Craft: Fish with Shiny Scales

To prepare for the craft, cut fish shapes (enough for all participants) from heavy paper. Cut scales from several different colors of shiny wrapping paper. Let the toddlers glue the shiny scales onto the fish shapes. Caregivers can use markers to add eyes and a mouth.

Supplies

Heavy paper
Shiny wrapping paper
Washable glue sticks
Washable markers





