

Let Macmillan Children's Publishing Group  
inspire your

# STORYTIME



# Best Storytime Practices

## Choosing Books

- Books with large, clear illustrations, like *Woke Baby* by Mahogany L. Browne, work wonderfully in storytime. Children will be able to see the illustrations from a distance.
- Books that tell a story kids can relate to, like *The Little Guys* by Vera Brosgol, are fantastic in storytime. Children understand what it's like to be little, and the surprise vertical page spread lends itself to the climax of the story.
- Books that turn familiar situations on their head, like *Bedtime for Little Bulldozer* by Elise Broach, will keep preschool and school-age children engaged and entertained.



## How to Read in Storytime

- Emphasize some words to make reading dynamic. In *Fergal and the Bad Temper* by Robert Starling, some of the words are printed in a larger font to show Fergal's anger.
- If a book has dialogue, consider getting a co-reader to help each character have a distinctive voice. If not, use a visual cue for children to understand who is speaking. Hold up a puppet to represent the different bugs in *The Last Peach* by Gus Gordon.
- Be active during storytime—especially if you have a large group. Act out swimming motions in *1, 2, 3, Jump!* by Lisl H. Detlefsen. Invite the children to pretend they have flippers at the end.



## Storytime Materials

Choose a variety of materials to use in storytime.

- Use scarves to sing a song.
- Try out musical instruments like egg shakers and jingle bells.
- Make flannel board pieces to go with books that you read.
- Give your voice a break between stories and use some recorded music. Have a dance party with the kids.

## Having a Successful Storytime

- Plan ahead to get your materials together and to advertise within your library.
- Practice, practice, practice! Consider letting a co-worker observe you and give feedback of your storytime—especially if it's your first time.
- Make sure you have plenty of time before your storytime to set up the room and take a few deep breaths prior to letting your patrons in.
- Set rules for your patrons to follow and explain them before you start.
- Have an opening and closing routine to signal to the children when storytime is about to begin/end.



# Book Specific Activities



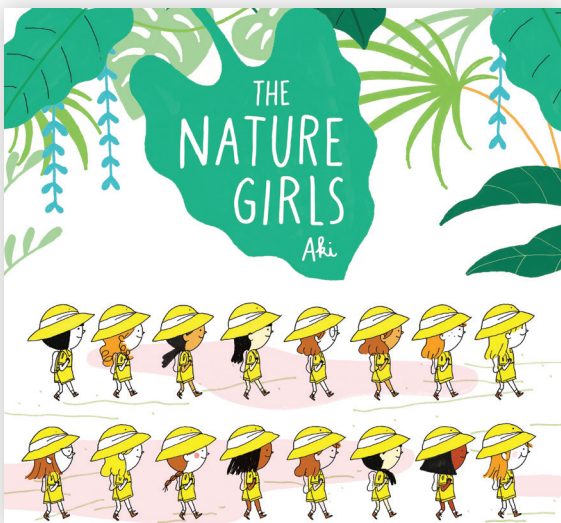
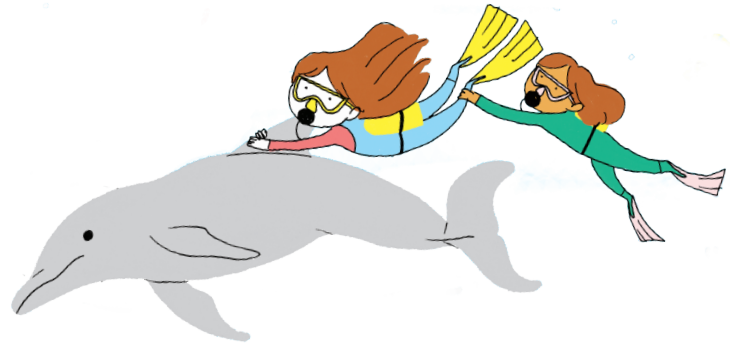
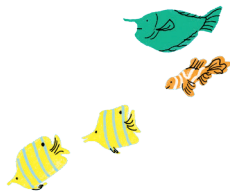
9781250198624 | Ages 3–6 | April 2019

## Fergal and the Bad Temper

by Robert Starling

Special  
Storytime  
Event

1. While reading this story, ask the children to participate along with the refrain "It's not fair!" Letting children see strong emotions like anger in a safe space helps them understand how to recognize them later.
2. Use a visual cue in storytime to show Fergal's anger. Try having the children wave scarves as he's getting angry.
3. Host a relaxation event with different stations to help children learn to control their temper: yoga, meditation, counting to ten, stress balls, and drawing their emotions are all great examples of what kind of activities to include.



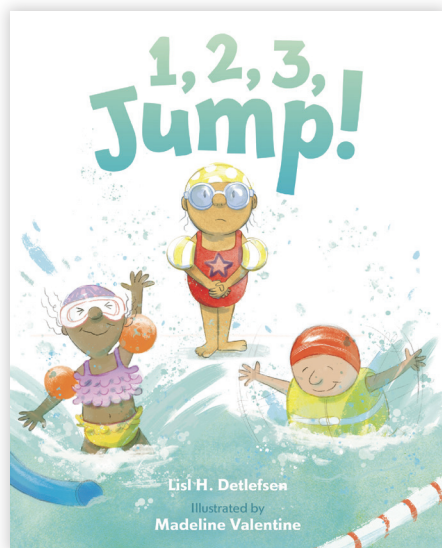
9781627796217 | Ages 4–8 | March 2019

## The Nature Girls

by Aki

Special  
Storytime  
Event

1. After reading the story, spend some time going on a nature adventure. If you have access to an outside space, go outside and let the children explore. What do they see or smell or hear? And if you don't have access to an outdoor space, use your imagination and information about the different biomes.
2. Make an explorer hat just like the girls wear in the book.
3. Find a way to show some different biomes to the children: Make sensory bins, models, or display pictures.



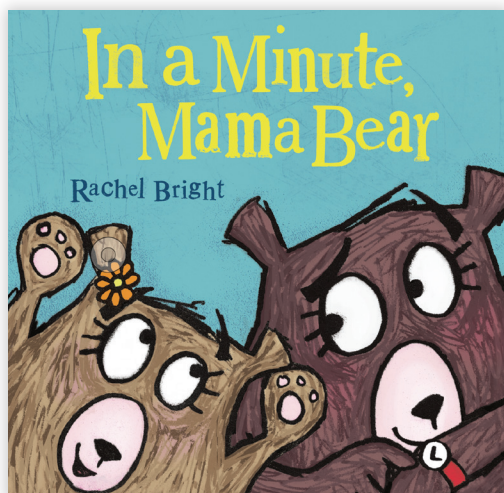
9781626726819 | Ages 3–6 | May 2019

Preschool  
Storytime

## 1, 2, 3, Jump!

by Lisl H. Detlefsen

1. Make a flannel board with different “suits” that children could wear while swimming like in the beginning of the book.
2. Talk about how the children think the main character is feeling throughout the book. Can the children think of a time that they were scared and how they overcame it?
3. If you need to get the wiggles out while reading the story, have the children listen for the word *jump* to jump into the air.



9780374305789 | Ages 2–5 | February 2019

Preschool  
Storytime

## In a Minute, Mama Bear

by Rachel Bright

1. Use your tone of voice to convey how rushed Mama Bear is feeling. Change it up once Mama Bear decides to have fun with Bella Bear.
2. Play a stop-and-go game to practice self-regulation. “Red Light, Green Light” is a classic example of these kind of games.
3. Make cloud shapes like Bella and Mama saw. Start by folding a colored piece of paper in half. Open the paper and squirt a dab of white paint on the fold. Fold the paper again and push the paint around to make a cloud.



9781596435889 | Ages 3–7 | June 2019

toddler  
Storytime

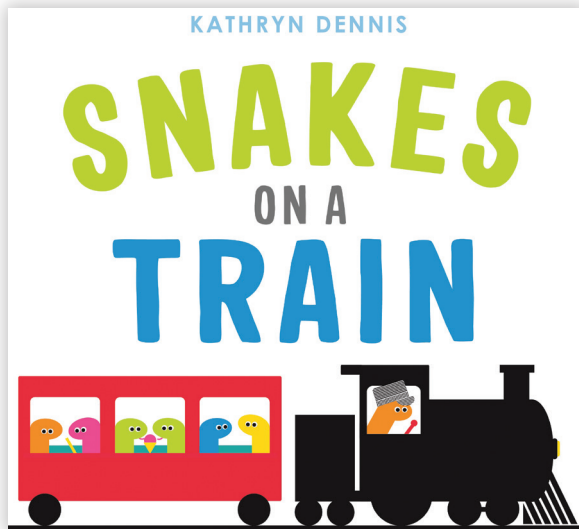
## Hold Hands

by Sara Varon

1. Have caregivers hold their child’s hand during storytime. If children want to hold hands with others, that’s a great way to practice social-emotional development. But it’s okay if not everyone wants to hold hands—it’s never too early to practice consent.
2. Play a game with your hands. Challenge the children to clap their hands, to wiggle their hands, to wave their hands, and any other actions you can think of.



# Book Specific Activities

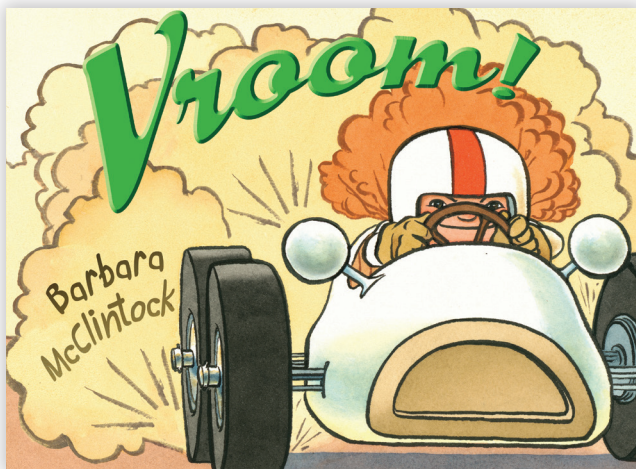


9781250304407 | Ages 2-5

## Snakes on a Train by Kathryn Dennis

toddler  
Storytime

1. Let your storytime participants repeat the "hiss" noise after you. Animal sounds are some of the first words children can make.
2. Bring a train whistle prop to storytime and blow on it while reading the story.
3. Make a people train once storytime is over. Slither around the room like snakes on a train!



9781626722170 | Ages 4-7 | July 2019

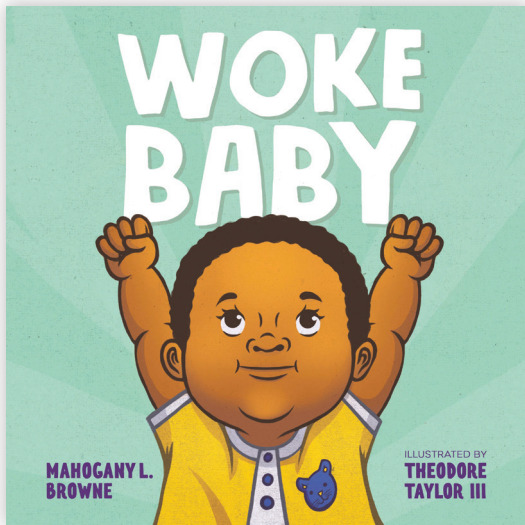
## Vroom! by Barbara McClintock

toddler  
Storytime

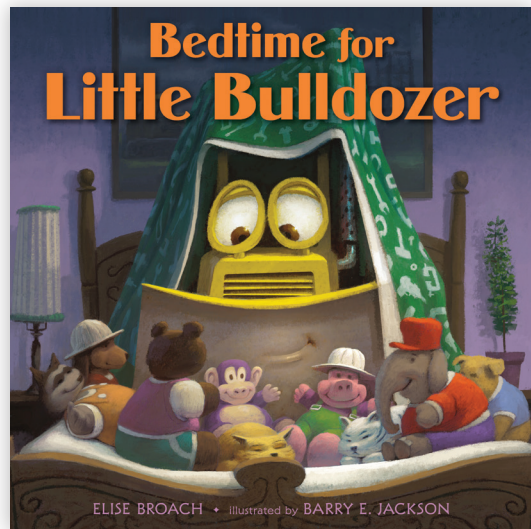
1. Caregivers can seat their children in their laps during the story. Children can pretend to "drive" while their caregivers act as cars.
2. There are lots of opportunities to create a driving route with this story. Caregivers can trace a route on their children's back while reading, or children can draw a map after storytime.



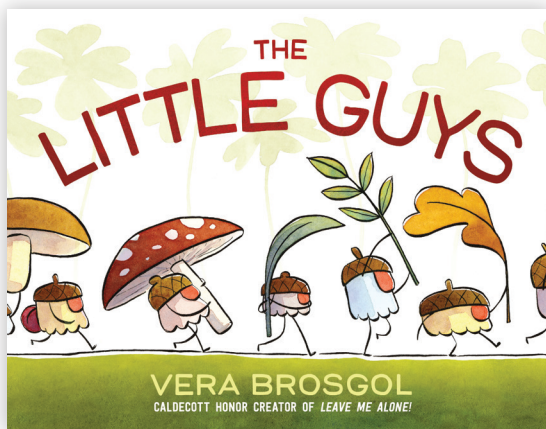
# Other Featured Titles



HC 9781626722958 | BB 9781250308986 | Ages 0–3



9781250109286 | Ages 4–8 | March 2019



9781626724426 | Ages 3–6 | April 2019



9781626723504 | Ages 4–8 | May 2019

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