



Bubbles & Baths

Objectives: To make connections through the universal experience of bathing and to understand one's place in the world.

Books:

Bubbles, Bubbles by Kathi Appelt

Clean Enough by Kevin Henkes

Dinosaur by Peter Sis (wordless book)

Piggies by Audrey and Don Wood

King Bidgood's in the Bathtub by Audrey and Don Wood

Scrubba Dub by Nancy Van Lann

Splash! by Sarah Garland (board book)

Splash by Roberta Grobel Intrater (board book - also available in Spanish as *Al Agua Patos*)

Tub Toys by Terry Miller Shannon

Fingerplays, flannelboard stories and songs:

After My Bath

After my bath I try , try, try

To rub myself 'till I'm dry, dry, dry (pretend to rub body with a towel)

Hands to dry and fingers and toes

Two wet legs and one shiny nose (point to body parts)

Just think how much less time it would take

If I were a dog and could shake, shake, shake! (shake body)

Washing (sing to "Head Shoulders Knees and Toes")

Wash your head, and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes

Wash your head, and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes

Eyes and ears and mouth and nose

Wash your head, and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes

This is the way we wash (sing to "Mulberry Bush"& name body parts)

This is the way we wash our _____, wash our _____, wash our _____

This is the way we wash our _____, so early in the morning / evening

Art activities:

Take the program outside – try these outdoor art projects

Shaving foam finger painting: If your library has large windows that are accessible from the outside, spray shaving foam onto paper plates and the kids finger paint the exterior windows with their fingers and hands. The shaving foam easily cleans off with a bucket of water or a garden hose. Alternately, provide metal cookie sheets or a plastic picnic table, turned on its side, as canvases for preschoolers' shaving foam art.



Bubble making: Experiment with these tried & true bubble recipes

Basic Bubbles:

2 Tbsp dish soap

1 Cup water

Magic Bubbles

1 Tbsp glycerin

2 Tbsp dish soap

9 oz water

Hints:

Mix up the recipes the night before the program for the best results

Glycerin is inexpensive and can be found in most drug stores. Glycerin makes strong, long-lasting bubbles.

Bubble wand ideas

Bend the opening of a coat hanger into a large circle

Green plastic produce baskets

Fly swatters with holes

Covers of yogurt containers with the center cut out.

Giant bubbles: cut two sections of straws, about 6 inches long. Cut a string about 24 inches long. Pull the string through the straws, tie the string in a knot, and hide the knot inside the straw. Hold one end of each straw in each hand and pull; you will create a square or rectangle. Dip this form into the pan of bubble solution, and gently draw it through the air. Voila, a giant bubble.

Easy Bubble Bottle Holder

Cut a hole in the bottom of a plastic margarine tub. Replace the lid. Insert bubble bottle to help prevent spills.

Movement and other activities:

Go outside and pass out bubble solution and wands. Encourage children and their parents to create bubbles. Watch what happens to the bubbles – how far do they fly? How long do they last? How big are the bubbles? How small? Record observations on a chart.

Message for parents & caregivers:

We introduce early math concepts to our children when we encourage them to compare the sizes and discuss distance. These are skills that will help them succeed in school!



Water Habitats

Objectives: To encourage children to explore the habitat in which they live and to help them connect to habitats throughout the world.

Books:

Across the Stream by Mirra Ginsburg

All You Need for a Beach by Alice Schertle

Have You Seen My Duckling? by Nancy Tafuri

Hello, Ocean! by Pam Munoz Ryan

In the Small, Small Pond by Denise Fleming

Mama Don't Allow by Thatcher Hurd

Pond Circle by Betsy Franco

Splash! by Ann Jonas

Fingerplays, flannelboard stories and songs:

Crossing the bridge flannel board activity

Cut a bridge shape out of brown felt. Choose appropriate water animal Accu-Cut/Ellison dies (or simply create free-hand) – such as fish, ducks, frogs. Cut some vehicles out of felt – cars, trucks, school busses. Talk about concepts: the frog is IN the water, the car is ON the bridge... the duck is under the bridge, the bus is over the duck, etc. Cut out multiple shapes and distribute them to children and parents at the end of the program and encourage them to place items on the flannel board and continue to play with these concepts.

Here Is the Sea

Here is the sea the wavy sea.

(Make wave motions with arm)

Here is my boat.

(Cup hands)

And here is me.

(Point to self)

All of the fishes.

(wiggle index and middle finger of one or both hands)

Down below.

Wiggle their tails.

And awaaaay they go!

(Hide wiggling fingers behind back)

Ocean Motion (Act out the motions of the ocean)

Let's make the motion of the ocean!

Jiggle like a jelly fish

Creep like a sea snail

Soar like an eagle

Wiggle like an eel

Float like a sea otter



Bark like a seal

Walk forward, backward, and sideways like a crab

Fish in the Sea (tune: Wheels on the Bus, suit motions to words)

The fish in the sea go swim, swim, swim,
swim, swim, swim,
swim, swim, swim,

The fish in the sea go swim, swim, swim,
All day long.

(additional verses: sharks go chomp, lobsters go pinch, octopus go wiggle, clam goes open and shut)

Art activities:

Rock Painting: paint different types of rocks with clear water. Ask children to describe the rocks when they are dry, wet and in the process of drying. Write responses down on a chart. (Teen volunteers can help with this activity.)

Papermaking: be inspired by Denise Fleming's books and make some paper! Check out a few books about papermaking with children and create paper at the end of story time. Allow the paper dry at the library and use it in displays throughout the summer, as book jackets for homemade books, and other art projects. (Teen volunteers can help with this activity.)

Alternate activity: check out the paper bowl making kit from SCLS; see the SCLS web page for information about borrowing kits.

Message for parents & caregivers:

Books with rhyming text will help your child hear the sounds in words, which will build their phonological awareness skills. So when you choose books to read to your child, try to find some with rhyming text.



Weather

Objective: To encourage children to discuss the different seasons and to encourage them to compare one season to another.

Books:

Are You Ready to Play Outside? by Mo Willems

Millions of Snowflakes by Mary McKenna Siddals

Monsoon Afternoon by Kashmira Sheth (longer picture book - best for family storytimes)

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert

Rain Play by Cynthia Cotton

Snowballs by Lois Ehlert

Walter was Worried by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Who Likes Rain? by Wong Herbert Yee

Fingerplays, flannelboard stories and songs:

Five Umbrellas flannel story (cut out umbrellas from appropriate color)

Five umbrellas stood by the back door,
The red one went outside, then there were four.
Four umbrellas stood pretty as can be,
The blue one went outside, then there were three.
Three umbrellas stood with nothing to do,
The green one went outside, then there was two.
Two umbrellas stood watching for the sun,
The yellow one went outside, then there was one.
Just one umbrella stood alone in the hall,
The white one went outside, and then that was all!

Rain – fingerplay

Rain on the green grass (Flutter fingers up and down.)

Rain on the tree (Raise both hands to form tree.)

Rain on the rooftop (Hands form point over head like roof.)

But not on me! (Point to self.)

Once There Was a Snowman - rhyme

Once there was a snowman
Snowman, snowman,
Once there was a snowman,
Tall, tall, tall!

In the sun he melted,
Melted, melted.
In the sun he melted,
Small, small, small.

(try telling this story with appropriate gestures – raise arms and grow tall while reciting the first verse and then shrink towards the floor while reciting the last verse.)



Art activities:

Make rain gauges. Collect plastic water or soda bottles. Build a rain gauge by cutting off the top third of the plastic bottle and inverting the top inside the bottom to form a funnel. (Have teen volunteers or adults cut the bottle before the actual toddler/preschool program.) Provide stickers, markers, glitter paints, etc. and encourage kids to decorate their rain gauges. Send the gauges home and instruct parents to use a permanent marker to record inches on the side of the bottle. This could be a summer-long project - ask regulars to report on their rain gauges. Make & display charts to record the data.

Torn Paper Rainbows

Apply glue onto a piece of paper where the first color of the rainbow should be, you can make a half or full arc. Have your child apply red torn paper to the glued area. Next apply glue under the red torn paper for the next color, and so on!! (You will only be able to do three or four colors)

Paint with Clouds

Supply each child with a piece of blue paper, a cotton ball and white paint. Have the child dip the cotton ball into the white paint and press onto the paper to make cloud prints

Movement and other activities:

Experiment with the repeated phrase, "*And Rain Makes Applesauce*". Encourage kids to create other scenarios and complete each statement with, "and rain makes applesauce." Write down the different phrases and encourage kids to illustrate their descriptions. (Teen volunteers can help with this activity.)

Act out *Are You Ready to Play Outside?* after you've finished reading it. Make sure that every child has a role – have multiple main characters and enlist parents to ham it up as earthworms!

Prism fun

You can find a prism at many science stores or teachers store. Show your child the prism, and how to see all the colors of a rainbow in the prism.

Message for parents & caregivers:

When children re-tell familiar stories through active play we help them develop their narrative skills. This helps them remember sequences and events in their books and soon they will repeat their favorite books back to us! This is early reading!



Water Animals

Objective: To introduce the concept of phonological awareness through playing with animal sounds.

Books

Fish Eyes by Lois Ehlert

Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel (read one of the stories – or tell it with props)

Jump, Frog, Jump! by Robert Kalan

Red-eyed Tree Frog by Joy Cowley

Scoot! by Cathryn Falwell

Splash! by Flora McDonnell

Turtle Dreams by Marion Dane Bauer

Fingerplays, flannelboard stories and songs:

My Turtle fingerplay

This is my turtle (Make fist and extend thumb.)

He lives in a shell (Hide thumb.)

He likes his home very well

He pokes his head out when he wants to eat (Extend thumb.)

And pulls it back when he wants to sleep (Hide thumb.)

The Frog on the Log flannelboard story (cut green frog, a brown log, an owl and a blue pond from felt)

There once

Was a green

Little frog, frog, frog –

Who played

In the wood

On a log, log, log!

A screech owl

Sitting

In a tree, tree, tree -

Came after

The frog

with a scree, scree, scree!

When the frog

Heard the owl -

In a flash, flash, flash -

He leaped

In the pond

With a splash, splash, splash!



Little Tadpole song (Tune: "Frere Jacques")

Try telling this story with a paper tadpole – as you sing the song fold tail behind prop, and drop down pre-cut legs at appropriate time in the song

Little tadpole, little tadpole
Lost his tail, lost his tail.
Now he has two feet
Now he has four feet
Look a frog! Look a frog!

Movement and other activities:

Get kids up and moving like ducks, frogs, turtles, fishes. Can they think of other water animals? What sounds do these water animals make? Play some music and encourage kids to move, dance and sing as different types of water animals.

Art Project:

Print making: inspiration from *Scoot!* (Falwell) – pour a small amount of paint into an old plate or bowl and encourage kids to dip small objects in the paint and stamp paper to make prints. An alternate activity for very young children: replace the paint with water and stamp construction paper. (Teen volunteers can help with this activity.)

Recycled art: Make a fish, octopus or other sea creature out of an old CD or DVD. Use the disc as the animal's body and glue on paper fins, tentacles, yarn barbells (whiskers) etc. Provide as many art materials as possible, especially recycled items.

Message for parents & caregivers:

It's fun to play with animal sounds. Encourage children to experiment with the different sounds that animals make. Identifying different types of sounds helps build phonological awareness.



Boats

Objective: To encourage kids to compare and contrast items of different sizes and weights.

Books:

Boats by Byron Barton

I Love Boats by Flora McDonnell

I'm Mighty by Kate McMullan

Little Bear's Little Boat by Eve Bunting

Mr. Gumpy's Outing by John Burningham

Sail Away, Little Boat by Janet Buell

Fingerplays, flannelboard stories and songs:

A Sailor went to Sea song/rhyme

A sailor went to sea, sea, sea

To see what s/he could see, see, see

But all that he could see, see, see

Was the bottom of the deep blue sea, sea, sea

Variation on Rub-a-dub-dub (use this as storytime opening activity)

Rub-a-dub-dub, (rub tummy)

Three friends in a tub! (hold up 3 fingers)

And who do you think they be?

There's (child's name), and (child's name), and (child's name), too!

All of them have gone to sea!

Big Blue Boat flannelboard story

Cut out a large, simple boat from blue felt. Cut out basic triangle shapes from other colors of felt for the sails. Put the appropriate shapes on your flannelboard as you recite the poem. Feel free to improvise with other colors, number of items and objects.

I love to row in my big blue boat,
My big blue boat, my big blue boat,
I love to row in my big blue boat,
Out on the deep blue sea.

My big blue boat has two red sails,
Two red sails, two red sails,
My big blue boat has two red sails,
Out on the deep blue sea.

(improvise here -- three green sails, four gray mice, five brown cats, etc.)

So come for a row in my big blue boat,
My big blue boat, my big blue boat,



So come for a ride in my big blue boat,
Out on the deep blue sea.

Art Activities:

Recycled art: Make sailboats out of milk cartons, straws, and paper sails.

Give children a blank piece of paper, brushes, and blue and white paints to paint ocean waves on the whole sheet of paper. Talk about “light” and “dark” as you paint waves.

Movement and other activities:

Does it float? Does it sink?: Fill a plastic wash tub or large bowl with water and provide a variety of objects, some of which float and others that sink. (toy boats, pebbles, Styrofoam peanuts, plastic spoon, metal spoon, ping pong balls, pennies, etc.) Ask kids – do you think this will sink or float? Record their responses and then record actual results on a chart.

Dramatic play: Make a tent with a sheet and chairs to represent a ship’s cabin. Make this a reading cabin and set out piles of books about water life. Provide cardboard periscopes, and life jackets (you can even make life jackets out of brown paper bags) to add to the fun! Use this space as a way to re-tell one of the books you shared at storytime.

Message for parents & caregivers:

Helping children identify familiar concepts, such as color and shapes, helps them develop rich vocabularies and prepares them to understand words that they will someday sound out and read.



Swimming

Objective: To include hands-on learning opportunities and to reach kinesthetic learners.

Books:

Frog by Susan Cooper
Little Loon and Papa by Toni Buzzeo
Make the Team, Baby Duck! by Amy Hest
Sun Dance, Water Dance by Jonathan London
Swim! by Eve Rice
Two Dogs Swimming by Lynn Reiser

Fingerplays, flannelboard stories and songs:

Five Little Fish flannelboard story
Cut five fish out of various colors; cut out one gray shark. Alternatively, tell the story using finger puppets or a story mitt.

One little fishy swimming in the ocean blue
Here comes another one, then there were two.
Two little fishies swimming in the sea.
Here comes another one, then there were three
Three little fishies, swimming near the shore.
Here comes another one, then there were four.
Four little fishies, swimming around and dive
Here comes another one and now there are five
Here comes a shark, looking for some fun
Look out little fishies and away they run.

Funny Ducky (adapted from Toddler Storytimes II, by Diane Briggs)

Waddle, waddle, waddle ducky
waddle to the pond
(place thumbs in armpits and walk like a duck)
Paddle, paddle, paddle ducky
paddle all around
(paddle with hands)
Tail up, head up, funny little duck,
Tail up, head up, funny little duck,
(move head downward and place hands behind back to represent a tail)

Alternate telling: use a puppet or rubber ducky to tell this story. Pass out rubber duckies to kids and encourage them to act out the story as you recite it.

Art activities

Swim goggles: pre-cut paper "swimming goggles" (or use one of the mask Accu-Cut or Ellison dies) and provide stickers, markers and other art supplies and encourage children to decorate their swimming goggles. Attach one piece of yarn on each side of the goggles to create a strap. Define an open space on the floor as the pretend swimming pool or beach and encourage children to swim, sun and play in the sand! (Use teen volunteers.)



Other activities

Dramatic play: provide beach towels, picnic baskets & toy utensils, beach blankets, goggles, life preservers, flippers, beach balls, water toys, etc., and encourage kids to re-tell some of the books through dramatic play. Encourage them to make up new stories using the props. Be sure to write down any stories that kids create. (Use teen volunteers.)

Message for parents: Children learn by doing. By allowing your kids to be hands-on-learners you help them connect with their subject matter on a deeper, personal level.