

Opening the Gift

Down On the Farm



April 2017



Chickens by Julie Murray

Big Tractor by Nathan Clement

Farmyard Beat by Lindsey Craig

Driving My Tractor by Jan Dobbins

My Farm Friends by Wendell Minor

Big Fat Hen illustrated by Keith Baker

Old MacDonald Had a Truck by Steve Goetz

Cock-a-Doodle Quack! Quack! by Ivor Baddiel & Sophie Jubb

Piggies In the Pumpkin Patch by Mary Peterson & Jennifer Rofé

Sun Above and Blooms Below: A Springtime of Opposites by Felicia Sanzari Chernesky



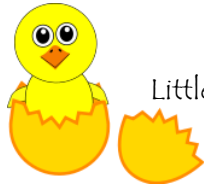
Nursery Rhyme: 1, 2, Buckle My Shoe



Songs & Fingerplays to Share

CD: "I Know a Chicken" from *Whaddaya Think of That?* by Laurie Berkner

Open Up the Barn Door



Open up the barn door,
the spring goes "Boink."
There's a pig in the barn,
saying "Oink, oink, oink."
Open up the barn door,
before the clock strikes two.
There's a cow in the barn,
saying, "Moo, moo, moo."
Open up the barn door,
it's a sunny day.
There's a horse in the barn,
saying "Neigh, neigh, neigh."
Open up the barn door,
don't let it get off the track.
There's a duck in the barn,
saying "Quack, quack, quack."
Open up the barn door,
while the sky is blue.
There's a rooster in the barn,
saying "Cock-a-doodle-do!"

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Little Chick

Little chick, in the egg, sitting so still.
(crouch down)
Little chick, will you hatch?
YES! I WILL!
(jump up)

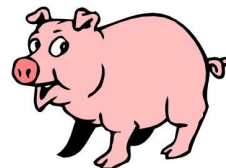
Pigs in the Mud

(tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Roll, roll, roll around,
in the mud all day.
That is what the pigs all do.
What a way to play!

Roll, roll, roll around,
that is how they stay.
Oh, so very nice and cool,
on a sunny day!

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The Wheels on the Tractor

(tune: *The Wheels On The Bus*)

The wheels on the tractor go
Round and round.
Round and round.
Round and round.
The wheels on the tractor go
Round and round.
All around the farm.

Additional verses:

The engine on the tractor goes
Vroom, vroom, vroom...

The farmer on the tractor goes
Up and down...

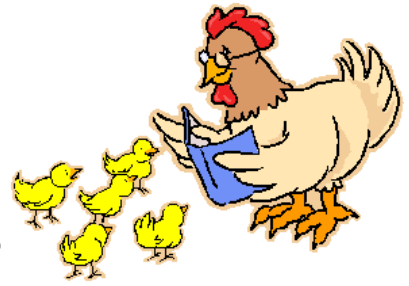
The tractor in the field goes
Back and forth...

The brakes on the tractor go
Squeak, squeak, squeak...
When the work is done!

Your next visit will be: May _____
Next month's theme will be: "B Is For Bulldozer"



More Books to Share:



Hurry! Hurry! by Eve Bunting
Duck, Duck, Goose by Wiley Blevins
Click, Clack, Peep! by Doreen Cronin
The Cow Said Meow by John Himmelman
Go, Little Green Truck! by Roni Schotter
A Chicken Followed Me Home! by Robin Page
In! Over! and On! (the Farm) by Ethan Long
Wake Up, Big Red Barn! by Suzanne Tanner Chitwood

Farm Animals: Full of Fun Facts and Activities a DK Publishing Book

Activity Ideas:

Purple Cows: For four servings, you will need 1 cup grape juice (purple, of course!), 1 cup vanilla ice cream, and 1 cup of lemon-lime soda. In blender, combine grape juice and ice cream; blend 15 seconds. Pour mixture into four small paper cups and top each with a splash of lemon-lime soda. Sip through straws, then recite the poem!

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I never saw a Purple Cow,
 I never hope to see one;
 But I can tell you, anyhow,
 I'd rather see than be one.



Grain Collage: Discuss with the children the types of grains and seeds that farm animals eat, such as corn, wheat, hay, oats, and barley. Provide a supply of these grains along with paper and glue, and then encourage the children to glue a variety of grains and seeds to the paper to create their collage.

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Counting Spots Book: Each child will make his or her own book. For each child, cut out 10 paper cow shapes and number 1-10, then assemble pages into a book. Using black paint or an ink pad, children stamp the correct number of "spots" on each cow, using their thumbprints.

Book of the Month:

Learning Is In Bloom: Cultivating Outdoor Explorations by Ruth Wilson, PhD
 Creative Child Magazine's 2016 Preferred Book Award! The movement to connect young children with nature continues to grow, as more parents and educators become passionate about bringing learning outdoors and letting children explore outside the bounds of traditional lessons. In the full-color *Learning Is in Bloom*, teachers and caregivers will find 40 hands-on activities effective in engaging young children in investigating nature, both indoors and outdoors, on the school grounds, and on excursions around the neighborhood. Through fostering a love of nature, the activities promote all areas of early childhood education and development.

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Road to Reading Tip:

Get with the beat! Research suggests that a young child's ability to keep a steady beat is one of the best indicators of future academic success. The ability to maintain a steady beat may well aid the development of speech, as a sense of timing underlies our ability to pick up the patterns of spoken phrases and sentences. As soon as possible, we should provide activities to help children feel the strong pulse, or beat, in speech and in music.

excerpted from Early Literacy Fundamentals: A Balanced Approach to Language, Listening, and Literacy Skills by Sue Palmer & Ros Bayley



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Questions or Suggestions? Call Melinda Chase, Bel Air Branch, 410-638-3151, ext. 6351
 If you have an urgent message for me, please speak with the operator, 410-638-4800 (starting at 8am)
 or call the Opening the Gift cell phone, 443-608-9881
 email: chase@hcplonline.org

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