

# Opening the Gift

Vol. 23 No. 4

Star Light, Star Bright

December 2019



Moon Child by Nadia Krilanovich  
WOW! Said the Owl by Tim Hopgood  
Stars by Mary Lyn Ray and Marla Frazee  
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star by Jerry Pinkney  
Touch the Brightest Star by Christie Matheson  
The Stars Will Still Shine by Cynthia Rylant  
Little Owl's Night by Divya Srinivasan  
Good Night World by Willa Perlman  
Little Star A Look & See Book



Nursery Rhyme: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Songs & Fingerplays to Share



CD: "This Little Light of Mine" from Singin' and Groovin' by *The Music For Little People Band*

## Little Owl

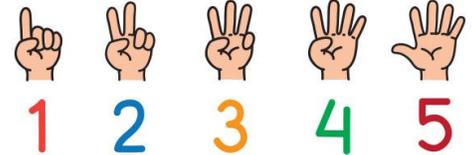
(tune: Jingle Bells)

Little owl, little owl  
High up in the tree.  
Little owl, little owl  
Winks his eyes at me.  
Hooting loud, hooting soft,  
Hooting all night long.  
I just love that little owl  
And love his hooting song.



## In The Sky

In the sky in daytime light  
(stretch arms up)  
We can see the sunshine bright  
(keep arms up and make a circle with fingers)  
We can see the clouds puffed white  
(wave hands slowly)  
Moving slowly in their flight.  
In the sky in black midnight,  
(stretch arms up)  
We can see the moon's clear light  
(keep arms up and make a circle with fingers)  
We can see the stars in sight  
(wiggle fingers to indicate twinkling stars)  
Twinkling high with all their might.



## Counting Stars

(optional: place star stickers on fingertips)  
One little star came out tonight,  
It twinkled and twinkled with all of its might.

Two little stars came out tonight,  
They twinkled and twinkled  
with all of their might.

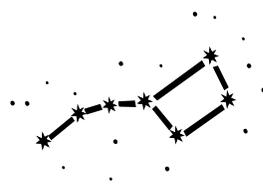
Continue with:  
three, four & five little stars.  
End with the children all holding up  
their hands and wiggling them.

Thousands of stars came out tonight,  
Twinkling, and twinkling a beautiful sight!

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We can see them twinkling bright,  
Twinkling bright, twinkling bright.  
We can see them twinkling bright  
All through the night.

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Your next visit will be: January \_\_\_\_\_  
Next month's theme will be: "Yes, No, Fast, Slow"



# More Books to Share:

- Twinkle Twinkle Little Star I Know Exactly What You Are* by Julia Krogenow
- Owly & Wormy: Bright Lights and Starry Nights!* by Andy Runton
- Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* by Jane Cabrera
- Stars! Stars! Stars!* by Nancy Wallace
- Older Than the Stars* by Karen Fox
- Waiting Is Not Easy* by Mo Willems
- You Are A Star!* by Michael Parker
- Our Stars* by Anne Rockwell



## Activity Ideas:

**Special Star:** Youngsters develop color-recognition skills with this cute idea! Spread colorful star cutouts on the floor in the center of your circle time area. Recite the rhyme shown and then invite a volunteer to find a corresponding star and hold it in the air. After confirming that the color is correct, have her place the star back on the floor. Continue with each remaining color. *themailbox.com*

**Twinkle, twinkle,  
[yellow] star,  
Who can show me  
where you are?**



### Owl Snack:

#### Materials:

- oval crackers
- pretzels, both sticks and mini twists
- candy corn
- yellow circles for the eyes (M&M's, Reese's Pieces, Kix Cereal or cheese)

Use an oval cracker for the owl's body, a pretzel for the owl's head, candy corn for the owl's beak, yellow candy for the owl's eyes, & pretzels for the owl's talons.

<http://kindernature.org/activity/make-an-owl-snack/>

**Starry Night Art:** Painting on foil is an easy process art idea for kids that's perfect for the winter months. This activity is great for toddlers and preschoolers working on fine motor skills and color mixing. Cover a piece of cardboard with foil for each child. For this art technique, use Q-tips as paint brushes. Inspire your artists with a copy of Vincent van Gogh's *Starry Night* painting to look at, then provide different shades of blue acrylic paint. Encourage the children to explore swirling the paint around the foil with the Q-tips, which gives the artwork a real winter feel.



*excerpted from messylittlemonster.com*

## Book of the Month:

*My Great Outdoors Book: The Kids' Guide to Being Outside* by Josie Jeffery

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Whether its bug hunting in a city courtyard, counting stars, planting a neat little window box or building a cool woodland hideout, this brilliantly innovative activity book will open children's eyes to an awesome outdoor playground. Packed with exciting stuff to do, make and discover, the activities are arranged in themed sections, from the garden, the woods, and the shore, through to rainy days, sunny days and night-time. This book is guaranteed to turn any stay-at-home kid (and their family) into an enthusiastic and accomplished outdoor adventurer!

(Grand Central Pub)



## Road to Reading Tip:



As you choose gifts for the winter holidays, either for your own child or as a donation to a favorite charity, consider giving good books to snuggle up with. "Books are mirrors and windows for all kids—they not only allow them to see their own experiences validated, but expose them to experiences far beyond their homes, communities, and countries, helping them to grow into caring, empathetic citizens of the world." *scholastic.com*



**Harford County  
Public Library**

**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](mailto:chase@hcplonline.org)

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