

Opening the Gift

Songs & Fingerplays

Two Little Blackbirds

Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill
One named Jack and one named Jill
Fly away Jack, fly away Jill
Come back Jack, come back Jill

Two little blackbirds sitting on a **car**
One named **near** and one named **far**
Fly away near, fly away far
Come back near, come back far
[Put one finger near your body
and one finger outstretched]

Additional Verses:

Cup - Up/Down
Cloud - Quiet/Loud
Pole - Fast/Slow

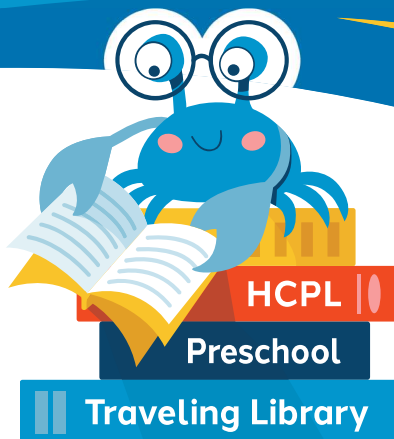
If You're Wearing Red Today [Tune: Muffin Man]

[follow directions]

If you're wearing red today,
Red today, red today,
If you're wearing red today,
Stand up and say "Hoo-ray!"
Repeat: for other colors

Ring Around the Rosie

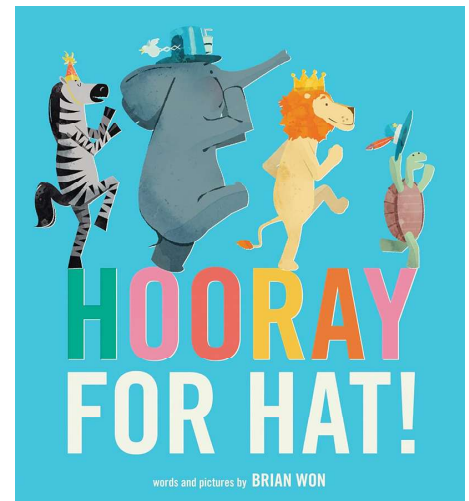
Ring around the rosie,
A pocket full of posies,
Ashes, ashes,
We all [touch our toes]
Repeat with flap our arms, run
in place, hop 5 times, wiggle our hips,
stomp our feet, and sit right down



April 2026

Theme: Librarian's Choice Books to Share

This month we are sharing some of my favorite stories and songs. Children will try to stop the Pigeon in *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*, by Mo Willems, and they will help Elephant and friends cheer up in *Hooray for Hat*, by Brian Won. We will have fun counting with our bird friends in *10 on a Twig*, by Lo Cole. We will also let our imaginations run wild in Shawn Harris's *Let's Be Bees*. So please join us for some interactive and playful stories, songs, and fingerplays this month.

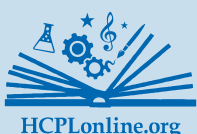
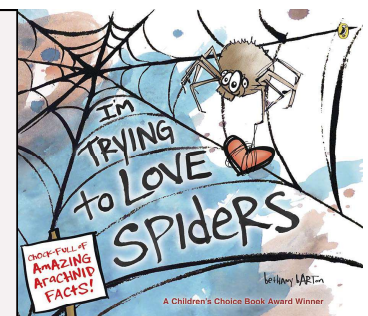
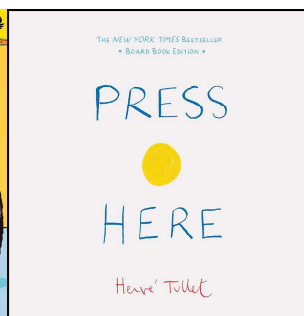
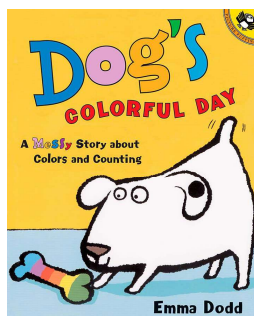


Spring is fun! by Walt Moon

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems
10 on a Twig by Lo Cole
Hooray for Hat by Brian Won
Let's Be Bees by Shawn Harris

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

Looking for more book ideas? Check these out!

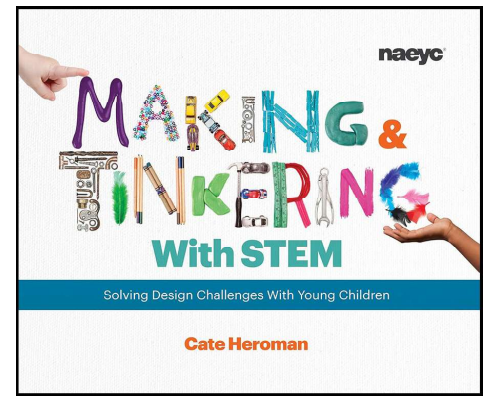


Harford County
Public Library

Book of the Month from the Parent Teacher Collection

Making and Tinkering with STEM: Solving Design Challenges with Young Children, Cate Heroman

Can you build a sturdy house that is safe from the big, bad wolf, or a bridge that will hold the Billy Goats Gruff? Teaching and learning STEM subjects is more accessible than ever before! Children will be inspired, delighted, and challenged as they use everyday materials and STEM concepts to design and build solutions to problems faced by characters in their favorite books. This practical, hands-on resource includes: engineering design challenges appropriate for children 3-8; Suggestions for creating a makerspace environment; A list of 100 picture books that encourage STEM-rich exploration and learning; Questions and ideas for expanding children's understanding of STEM concepts.



More Rhymes

Toe Knee Chestnut

[Touch body parts as they are named]

Toe Knee Chestnut *[head]*

Nose Eye love you

Repeat

Toe Knee Nose

Toe Knee Nose

Toe Knee Chestnut *[head]*

Nose Eye love you

That's what Toe Knee knows.

Little Bird *[Tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"]*

[follow directions]

Little bird, little bird, fly around,

Up to the sky, down to the ground.

Little bird, little bird, flap your wings.

Open your beak and sweetly sing.

Little bird, little bird, fly to your nest.

Now it is time to take a rest.

Goodbye Friends

Goodbye friends, *[wave goodbye-sign friends]*

Goodbye friends, *[wave goodbye-sign friends]*

Goodbye friends, *[wave goodbye-sign friends]*

It's time to say goodbye. *[point to wrist, point to mouth, wave goodbye]*

Try a Fun Activity

Paper Towel Art

Materials:

washable markers (not permanent markers - the ink needs to bleed when wet)

paper towel, paintbrushes, water,

Optional - cookie sheets

Directions:

* Have your child scribble all over a piece of paper towel, filling in as much white space as possible.

* Once you've finished filling in your paper towel, place it on a **hard, non-absorbent surface**

* You don't want anything soft and absorbent under your paper towel because it will wick the color out of your work. A plastic tray or a cookie sheet would work well

* Have your child wet the paper towel by brushing water onto it with a paintbrush.

* This part of the process is a great lesson in water absorption. The children can watch the colors bleed and blend as the paper towel absorbs the water.

* Dry your paper towel somewhere that the air can get under it and all around it. Hang on the clothesline or put a couple on a cookie sheet. Just be sure to lay it on a surface that will **A) not absorb the color or B) not stain!**

<https://hannvhooligans.ca/paper-towel-art/>



Every **CHILD**
Ready to **READ**

Talking with your children, especially as you share books, is one of the best ways to develop your children's vocabulary. In books they see things they might not otherwise see, like different kinds of animals, and they hear vocabulary they may not otherwise hear, such as exuberant or gracious. Take advantage of expanding their vocabulary by talking with them about the pictures and vocabulary in books.

Talking | **Singing** | **Reading** | **Writing** | **Playing**

For more information,
visit us at hcplmd.org/otg/



Questions or suggestions?

Contact: Sheila George at 410-638-3151 x6351 or george@hcplonline.org