Sample Plan for Baby Storytime

- If you’re not comfortable with singing, these also work as rhymes without tunes. Use handclapping and bouncing to keep the rhythm.
- You don’t need to do all of these, but those that you do, try to do at least twice.
- If you read a book or do a flannelboard, you will want to trim down how many songs and rhymes you do.

Welcome song

Clap your hands

Clap your hands, clap your hands, Everybody, clap your hands.
Clap your hands, clap your hands, clap your hands, clap your hands
Everybody clap your hands.
Tap your knees...
Touch your nose...
Wave hello...

Warmup songs

Zoom Zoom Zoom, We’re Going to the Moon
Zoom, zoom, zoom, we’re going to the moon.
Zoom, zoom, zoom, we’re going to the moon.
If you want to take a trip, climb aboard my rocket ship.
Zoom, zoom, zoom, we’re going to the moon.
In five, four, three, two, one, BLAST OFF!

Open, Shut Them

Open, shut them, open, shut them, Give a little clap, clap, clap.
Open, shut them, open, shut them, Put them in your lap, lap, lap.
Creep them, crawl them, creep them, crawl them, right up to your chin, chin chin.
Open up your little mouth, but do not let them in, in, in.

Tickles (Do two or three of these.)

Dance Your Fingers Up (to the tune of Tommy Thumb. Wiggle/tickle fingers as you move them around; this version is easy for babies and parents to do together as a tickle.)
Dance your fingers up, and dance your fingers down.
Dance them to the side, and dance them all around.
Dance them on your shoulders, dance them on your head.
Dance them on your knees, now tuck them into bed.

Crawly (crawl finger up from toes to top of head and then back down again)
Crawly, crawly, crawly, up the wally, wally, wally.
Look out little fly, don’t you fally, fally, fally!

The Wee Mouse (tickle fingers around on palm of baby’s hand, then crawl them up the arm to under the chin)
Round about, round about, went the wee mouse,
Up a bit, up a bit, into his house.
**Baby’s Fingers** (touch baby’s fingers and toes, then tickle on tummy)
- These are baby’s fingers, these are baby’s toes
- This is baby’s bellybutton, round and round it goes.

**Pizza, Pickle** (clap hands to first line, then tickle nose, toes, and tummy)
- Pizza, pickle, pumpernickel, someone here shall have a tickle.
- A tickle for the nose, a tickle for the toes, a tickle for the tummy where the hotdog goes!

**Lap Bounces** (Do two or three of these.)

Lap bounces can be done with the baby sitting on the lap, near the knees, either facing the parent or facing out. Bounce the baby up and down to the rhythm. If you have a doll or plush animal you can use that as a model for bouncing the baby.

**Mother and Father and Uncle John** (tune: Here we go round the mulberry bush)
- Mother and Father and Uncle John, went to town, one by one.
- Mother fell off – Whee! (tilt baby to one side)
- And Father fell off – Whoa! (tile baby to the other side)
- And Uncle John went on and on and on and on! (go as long as you can)

**Trot Trot**
- Trot, trot to Boston, trot, trot to Lynn,
- You’d better watch out or you might fall in! (Drop baby between knees)
- Trot, trot to London, trot, trot to Dover,
- You’d better watch out, or you might tip over! (Tip baby to the side)

**See the Ponies** (start slowly and with each verse go faster)
- See the ponies, walking, walking, down a country road.
- See the ponies, walking, walking, down a country road.
- See the ponies, trotting, trotting, down a country road.
- See the ponies, trotting, trotting, down a country road.
- See the ponies, galloping, galloping, down a country road.
- See the ponies, galloping, galloping, down a country road.
- Now see the ponies coming home, all tired out, all tired out, all tired out. (bounce slowly)

**Leap Frog** (from Lauren Thompson’s *Leap Back Home to Me*. Hold baby and lift from side to side with each line.)
- Leap frog over the ladybug,
- Leap frog over the bee
- Leap frog over the tickly clover,
- Then leap back home to me! (end in a big hug)

**Book or flannel board (optional)**

Flannel boards can be simple shapes and colors cut out of felt to be used on a felt-lined board. You can talk about the shapes, the colors, or count the pieces. You can also find many free sources for felt board patterns online. For babies, simple Mother Goose rhymes with simple flannel board pieces can work; they don’t have to tell a long story. See the Flannel Board/Magnet Board page.
Books: choose simple, short books with very little text. Talk about what’s happening in the pictures. If you use a book with concepts, like shapes or colors, talk about the colors and look for colors around the room, such as what someone is wearing. Make sure the pictures are bold colored and take your time showing the book to the audience. Babies may or may not be paying attention to the book, but you are also modeling how to read a book to a baby for the parent or caregiver. See the Books for Storytime page.

Shaker eggs songs OR Scarf songs

Here, you may choose to do shaker egg songs or scarf songs. Shaker egg songs can also be done just with handclapping to the rhythm. I usually only do shaker egg songs once during storytime.

Making Butter (tune: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. Shake eggs or clap according to the movements in the song)
  Shake it up, shake it down,
  Shake it all around.
  Shake it high, shake it low.
  Shake it to and fro.
  Shake it over, shake it under,
  Pretty soon, you’ll have butter.

Popcorn
  Pop, pop, pop, pour the corn into the pot.
  Pop, pop, pop, take and shake it till it’s hot.
  Pop, pop, pop, lift the lid. What have you got?
  Popcorn!!!

I Know a Chicken (Laurie Berkner. This is a call and response song for encouraging audience participation.)
  I know a chicken (I know a chicken).
  And she laid an egg (and she laid an egg).
  Oh I know a chicken (I know a chicken).
  And she laid an egg (and she laid an egg).
  Oh my goodness! (oh my goodness!)
  It’s a shaky egg (it’s a shaky egg).
  Shake them fast, shake them slow.
  Shake it on your tummy, shake it on your toes.
  Shake it on your head, shake it on your nose.
  Shake it on your knees, shake it on your elbows.

We’re Going to Kentucky
  We’re going to Kentucky, we’re going to the fair,
  To see the señoritas with flowers in their hair.
  Shake your rattle baby, shake it if you can,
  Shake it like a milkshake, and drop it in the can.
  Rumba to the bottom, rumba to the top,
  Turn around, turn around until it’s time to stop!

Scarf songs
Peek-a-boo (tune: Where is Thumbkin?)
   Peek-a-boo, peek-a-boo, I see you, I see you
   I see your button nose, I see your tiny toes, I see you, I see you.

This Is the Way (tune: Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush)
   This is the way we wash our arms, wash our arms, wash our arms,
   This is the way we wash our arms, so early in the morning.
   This is the way we wash our knees, wash our knees, wash our knees,
   This is the way we wash our knees, so early in the morning

My scarf
   My scarf goes up, my scarf comes down,
   My scarf waves around, around, around.
   My scarf goes in, my scarf comes out, (scrunch scarf into your fist, then pull it out)
   My scarf goes about, about, about.

Time to put the eggs or scarves away. You can use a “yuck bucket” to put used eggs into, so they can be washed later. If babies don’t want to let go, don’t fret—ask parents to put the eggs in the bucket as they leave. As you pass around the bucket, try repeating a simple chant such as:
   “Eggs away, eggs away, it’s time to put the eggs away.
Eggs away, eggs away, it’s time to put them away.”

Wheels on the bus (Don’t do every verse with babies, three is usually enough. I use this a final song for all my types of storytimes, as a signal that storytime is coming to an end.)
   The wheels on the bus go round and round, round and round, round and round
   The wheels on the bus go round and round, all through the town.
   The doors on the open and shut, open and shut, open and shut,
   The doors on the bus go open and shut, all through the town.
   The driver on the bus says, move on back...
   The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish...
   The horn on the bus, goes beep, beep, beep...
   The people on the bus go up and down...
   The babies on the bus go wah, wah, wah...
   The parents on the bus, go shh, shh, shh...

Goodbye song with simple sign language.

   Goodbye, friends, goodbye friends, goodbye friends, it’s time to say goodbye.

Alternate Goodbye song (tune: Mary had a little lamb)
   It is time to wave goodbye, wave goodbye, wave goodbye
   It is time to wave goodbye to all our friends today.
Sample Plan for Toddler Storytime

Welcome song

**Clap your hands**

Clap your hands, clap your hands, everybody, clap your hands.
Clap your hands, clap your hands, clap your hands, clap your hands.
Everybody clap your hands.
   Stomp your feet...
   Brush your teeth...
   Touch your nose...
   Wave hello...

**Book** (usually your longest book) See the Books for Storytime page.

**Two or three transitional songs**

**I’m a Little Teapot**

I’m a little teapot, short and stout.
   Here is my handle, here is my spout.
   When I get all steamed up, hear me shout,
   Just tip me over and pour me out.

**Head, Shoulders Knees and Toes** (Go faster each time you repeat)

Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes.
Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes.
Eyes and ears and mouth and nose,
Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes.

**The Itsy-Bitsy Spider**

The itsy-bitsy spider went up the waterspout.
Down came the rain and washed the spider out.
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain,
   and the itsy-bitsy spider went up the spout again.
   The great big spider went up the water spout.
Down came the rain and washed the spider out.
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain,
   and the great big spider went up the spout again.
   The very quiet spider went up the waterspout.
Down came the rain and washed the spider out.
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain,
   and the very quiet spider went up the spout again.

Second book or flannel board

**Two or three songs, fingerplays, or egg/scarf songs.** If it’s a small group, it’s quick to hand out scarves or eggs, but if it’s a large group, it may take more time than you want to hand out and gather them back again. In this section you may want to try out some new songs, or songs on a theme.
Third book or flannel board (optional)

Wheels on the bus (I use this a final song for all my types of storytimes, as a signal that storytime is coming to an end.)

  - The wheels on the bus go round and round, round and round, round and round
  - The wheels on the bus go round and round, all through the town.
  - The doors on the open and shut, open and shut, open and shut,
  - The doors on the bus go open and shut, all through the town.
  - The driver on the bus says, move on back...
  - The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish...
  - The horn on the bus, goes beep, beep, beep...
  - The people on the bus go up and down...
  - The babies on the bus go wah, wah, wah...
  - The parents on the bus, go shh, shh, shh...

Goodbye song with simple sign language. Do two or three times for children to get the hang of the signs.

  - Goodbye, friends, goodbye friends, goodbye friends, goodbye friends, it’s time to say goodbye.

Goodbye song (tune: Mary had a little lamb) Do two or three times.

  - It is time to wave goodbye, wave goodbye, wave goodbye
  - It is time to wave goodbye to all our friends today.