Welcome to Children’s Programming Monthly, a compilation of ideas culled from bestselling ALA Editions programming books. We could easily do entire issues on cats and dogs, but as some children have other pets, we thought it best to include a little variety here. Granted, monkeys may seem a bit extreme, but I grew up next door to someone who had one, in addition to 4 chihuahuas and a poodle. Have fun with these programs, by pet-loving contributors.

All of the books listed are still available, many in new hardcover or paperback editions, including some in Spanish.

For more information about the ALA resources named in this issue, visit the ALA Store (alastore.ala.org) or call toll free 866-746-7252.

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Rabbits
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Purr-fect Cats
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Monkey Business
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Choose a Bird
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Pets
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Do you have a program or activity you would like to share—one your audiences really seem to love? Submit your program and if we like it, too, you could win a free subscription. For submission guidelines visit www.alaeditions.org/cpm/submission/guidelines or contact Stephanie Zvirin at szvirin@ala.org or call 1-800-545-2433 x 5107.
Judy Nichols

Rabbits

Excerpted from
Storytimes for Two-Year-Olds.
**BOOKS**

*Betty Bunny Loves Chocolate Cake*
(Dial, 2011)
MICHAEL KAPLAN

*Rabbits and Raindrops*
(Penguin, 1997)
JIM ARNOSKY

*Bunny Cakes*
(Viking, 1999)
ROSEMARY WELLS

*Rabbits and Raindrops*
(Penguin, 1997)
JIM ARNOSKY

*Busy Bunnies*
(Tricycle, 2008)
JOHN SCHINDEL

*The Rabbit Problem*
(Simon & Schuster, 2010)
EMILY GRAVETT

*Dumb Bunnies Go to the Zoo*
(Blue Sky, 2009)
DAV PILKEY

*Rosie and the Poor Rabbits*
(Atheneum, 1994)
MARYANN MACDONALD

*Good Night, Little Rabbit*
(Random, 1986)
J. P. MILLER

*Rhyming Dust Bunnies*
(Beach Lane, 2009)
JAN THOMAS

*Henry and Mudge and Annie's Perfect Pet*
(Simon & Schuster, 2000)
CYNTHIA RYLANT

*Runaway Bunny*
(HarperCollins, 2005)
MARGARET WISE BROWN

*Little White Rabbit*
(Greenwillow, 2011)
KEVEN HENKES

*What Does Bunny See?*
(Clarion, 2005)
LINDA SUE PARK

**RHYTHMS, RHYMES, AND FINGERPLAYS**

**Little Rabbit**

I saw a little rabbit go hop, hop, hop. *(Hop in place)*
I saw his long ears go flop, flop, flop. *(Put your hands above your head; “Flop” your wrists over and back)*
I saw his little eyes go wink, wink, wink. *(Blink your eyes)*
I saw his little nose go twinkle, twinkle, twinkle. *(Wiggle your nose)*
I said, “Little Rabbit, won’t you stay?” *(Make a beckoning motion)*
He looked at me and . . . hopped away! *(Hop)*
RABBITS

MORE RESOURCES

songs from Rob Reid’s Children’s Jukebox


“Little Peter Rabbit.” Beall, Pamela and Susan Hipp. We Sing Silly Songs.


“Rabbit Habit.” Knight, Tom. The Library Boogie.

“Run Bunny Run.” Hullabaloo. Sing along with Sam.

Hop, Hop, Hoppy (To the tune of “Peter Cottontail”)

Hop, Hop, Happy cannot wait, (Bounce in place)
Jumping near my garden gate.
Hippity, hoppity,
Carrots on his mind. (Pretend to eat carrot with little noises)
Floppy ears are flipping high,
(Flip your hands above your head)
Big feet jumping. My, oh my! (Lift one foot and then the other)
Hippity, hoppity, (Bounce in place)
No carrots left behind. (Shake your head sadly)

Here Is a Bunny

Here is a bunny with ears so funny. (Put your hands above your head to make ears; flop your wrists)
Here is his hole in the ground. (Using your arms, make a circle in front of your body)
When a noise he hears, (Clap your hands sharply)
He pricks up his ears (Hold your hands straight above your head for ears)
And jumps in his hole in the ground. (Jump into a crouching position)

PARENTS’ FOLLOW-UP IDEAS

Animal riddles are good for times when you are waiting for things to happen, such as waiting to be called into the doctor’s office. Try these:

I eat grass. I gallop. I have feathers.
I say moo. I trot. I peck and peck.
What am I? My hooves go clip, clop. What am I?

Plant a “rabbit garden,” even in the middle of winter, by cutting pictures from magazines, food labels, and advertisements for vegetables. Tape each picture to one end of a coffee stirring stick or a paper straw. Insert the opposite end of the stick into a Styrofoam block in a clay pot or a box. Arrange the sticks as though they are growing in the garden. You be the farmer, and let your child be a hungry bunny, sneaking into the garden to swipe the goodies. When the bunny gets caught (only occasionally), the farmer gets to tickle and hug it. The farmer and the bunny can replant the garden
together. Then ask your bunny to help you choose vegetables to serve for lunch or dinner.

CRAFT

Rabbit Cup Puppet

**Supplies:** A paper cup, a straw, tape, a picture of a rabbit small enough to fit inside the cup (Draw one or cut one from a magazine or greeting card)

**Directions:**
Poke a hole in the bottom of the cup large enough so that a straw can easily slide through. Tape the rabbit picture to one end of the straw and slide the other end of the straw down through the hole in the cup. Operate the puppet by sliding the straw up and down. Let your child operate the rabbit puppet, making it appear and disappear at the proper times.

PROGRAM NOTES

Introduce the theme with a toy rabbit, rabbit puppet, or storytime puppet wearing rabbit ears. Invite children to hop around the story space before settling into their rabbit holes (rug spots).

Use a basket and artificial fruit for *Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present*. Give children the opportunity to touch the fruit when the story is finished, inviting them to “hop” up to the basket. Between other stories children can hop fast and slow, crouch down to hide, and hop quickly home (to their adults).

Giveaways are bunny ears made from a paper plate, cut, folded, and stapled as in the illustration above.

Children exit the story space hopping like bunnies.
Diane Briggs

Purr-fect Cats

Excerpted from Preschool Favorites: 35 Storytimes Kids Love.
“The smallest feline is a masterpiece” (Leonardo da Vinci). Enjoy an abundance of cool cats with purr power in the great stories below, and help the children create a cat mask to take home.

**PURR-FECT READ-ALOUDS**

- *Caramba* by Marie-Louise Gay (Groundwood, 2005)
- *Cat Tricks* by Keith Baker (Harcourt, 1997)
- *Five Little Kittens* by Nancy Jewel (Clarion, 1999)
- *The Grannyman* by Judith Byron Schachner (Dutton, 1999)
- *If You Give a Cat a Cupcake* by Laura Numeroff (HarperCollins, 2008)
- *Kitten’s First Full Moon* (Greenwillow, 2004)
- *Kittens! Kittens! Kittens!* by Susan Meyers (Abrams, 2007)
- *Three Little Kittens* by Paul Galdone (Clarion, 1986)
- *So, What’s It Like to Be a Cat?* by Karla Kuskin (Atheneum, 2005)

**FINGERPLAYS AND POEMS**

**Little Kittens** (Folk rhyme)

Five little kittens *(Make your hand into a fist)*

All fluffy and white
Sleeping and purring
All through the night.
It’s time to get up now sleepyheads.
Meow, meow, meow, meow, meow *(Raise one finger each time you “meow”)*
Five little kittens all up from their beds.

**Little Mousie** (Folk rhyme)

Here’s a little mousie,
Peeking through a hole, *(Poke your index finger through a fist you’ve made with the other hand)*
Peek to the left, *(Wiggle your index finger to the left)*
Peek to the right, *(Wiggle it to the right)*
Pull your head back in, *(Pull your finger inside your fist)*
There’s a cat in sight!

**Five Little Kittens** (Folk rhyme)

Five little kittens, sleeping on a chair
One rolled off, leaving four there.
Four little kittens, one climbed a tree
To look in a bird’s nest; then there were three.
Three little kittens, wondered what to do.
One saw a mouse; then there were two.
Two little kittens, playing in the hall.
One little kitten chased a red ball.
One little kitten, with fur soft as silk,
Was left all alone to drink a dish of milk.
(This makes a good flannelboard activity)

Pussycat, Pussycat (Nursery rhyme)
Pussycat, pussycat, where have you been?
I’ve been to London to visit the Queen.
Pussycat, pussycat, what did you do there?
I frightened a little mouse under her chair.
(Try acting this out with puppets)

FLANNELBOARD STORY

Scat the Cat (Author unknown)

Once there was a cat named Scat. Scat had a beautiful coat of soft black fur.
One day he noticed that all his brothers and sisters also had black fur. So Scat
decided he wanted to be different. He wanted to change his color.

He said, “I’m Scat the Cat. I’m sassy and fat and I can change my color just
like that!” (Snap your fingers)

All of a sudden Scat turned blue just like the water, the sky, and blueberry
pie. Then Scat walked to a pond to admire his reflection. But he was there
only a minute when he slipped and fell into the water! He called for help but
his friends couldn’t see him because he was blue just like the water. Finally, a
kindly turtle pulled him to shore. He was one wet cat and Scat decided that he
didn’t want to be blue anymore.

So he said, “I’m Scat the Cat. I’m sassy and fat. I can change my color just
like that!” (Snap your fingers)

All of a sudden he turned green like the grass, the trees, grasshoppers, and
frogs. It was easy for Scat to be green—that is, until he went out to play with his
friends. His friends couldn’t find him because he matched the grass so well he
blended right in to it and could not be seen. So his friends played without him.
Now Scat the Cat was very unhappy and lonely; he didn’t want to be green and
unseen anymore.

So he said, “I’m Scat the Cat. I’m sassy and fat and I can change my color just
like that!” (Snap your fingers)

In a flash Scat turned yellow like the sun, lemons, and Easter chicks. Later
when he was walking through the zoo, Scat met a lion. The lion was jealous of
Scat’s shiny yellow coat and said, “Roar! I’m the only cat who is supposed to be
yellow!” The lion scared Scat. He was so scared that he wanted to change his color again.

So he said, “I’m Scat the Cat. I’m sassy and fat and I can change my color just like that!” (Snap your fingers)

This time Scat turned bright red like a candied apple and a fire engine. Scat was finally sure he was the best color in the world, and he went out to play with his friends. But they all made fun of him and laughed and said, “Who ever heard of a red cat?” Scat felt sad and a little mad. He decided he didn’t want to be fire engine red anymore. He didn’t want to be yellow like a lemon. He didn’t want to be blue like the sky, and he didn’t want to be green like the trees.

So he said, “I’m Scat the Cat. I’m sassy and fat, and I can change my color just like that!” (Snap your fingers)

So Scat changed back to black, and after that, he was quite happy just being himself.

**Supplies:** A kitten pattern (see page 29), one piece of blue felt cut into the shape of a pond, green felt to represent grass

**Directions:** Use the pattern to make a cat of each color. To set the scene, place a blue piece of felt shaped like a pond and a green piece for grass on the flannel board. When Scat falls into the water, cover him with the pond. Put him behind the grass when he turns green. To encourage participation during the story, ask the children to name other things that are blue, green, yellow, and red.

**MUSIC ACTIVITY**

Play a recording of “Three Little Kittens.” Select children to do the actions, while you play the role of the mother cat. You will need three pairs of mittens, a washtub or basin, a small clothesline, clothespins, and a pie. Use a pie tin and felt to make an imitation pie. Act out the poem as many times as you like, giving all the children a chance to participate. For variety, use cat masks to act out the song. You’ll find instructions on page 11.

**Three Little Kittens**

Three little kittens,  
They lost their mittens,  
And they began to cry,  
Oh, Mother dear,  
We sadly fear  
Our mittens we have lost.  
What! Lost your mittens,  
You naughty kittens!  
Then you shall have no pie.  
Mee-ow, mee-ow, mee-ow, mee-ow.

You shall have no pie.  
The three little kittens,  
They found their mittens,  
And they began to cry,  
Oh, Mother dear,  
See here, see here,  
Our mittens we have found.  
What! Found your mittens,  
You darling kittens!  
Then you shall have some pie.
Purr-fect cats

Mee-ow, mee-ow, mee-ow, mee-ow.
You shall have some pie.

The three little kittens,
Put on their mittens,
And soon ate up the pie;
Oh, Mother dear,
We greatly fear
Our mittens we have soiled.
What! Soiled your mittens,
You naughty kittens!
Then they began to sigh,
Mee-ow, mee-ow, mee-ow, mee-ow.
They began to sigh.

The three little kittens,
They washed their mittens,
And hung them out to dry;
Oh, Mother dear,
Look here, look here,
Our mittens we have washed.
What! Washed your mittens,
You’re such good kittens.
I smell a rat close by!
Hush! Hush! Hush! Hush!
Hush! Hush! Hush!
I smell a rat close by.

CRAFT

Cat Masks

Supplies: Paper plates, glue, craft sticks, construction paper, colored tissue paper, pipe cleaners, pom-poms

Directions: Create masks using paper plates. Cut eyeholes in the plates. Tape craft sticks onto the plates so they can be held up to the face. Use different craft materials to create the face: pipe cleaner whiskers, construction paper ears, pom-pom noses, and colored tissue spots for fur.
Monkey Business

Excerpted from A Box Full of Tales.
BOOKS

ativas with toddlers

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina (Harper and Row, 1968)
Curious George by H. A. Rey (Houghton Mifflin, 1941)
Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Eileen Christelow (Clarion, 1989)
Hug by Jez Alborough (Candlewick, 2000)
Little Monkey Lost by Keith DuQuette (Putnam, 2007)
Monkey and Me by Emily Gravett (Simon & Schuster, 2008)
Monkey with Toolbelt by Chris Monroe (Carolrhoda, 2007)
One Monkey Too Many by Jackie French Koller (Harcourt Brace, 1999)
So Say the Little Monkeys by Nancy Van Laan (Atheneum, 2001)
Ten Monkey Jamboree by Dianne Ochiltree (Simon and Schuster, 2001)
Water Hole Waiting by Jane Kurtz and Christopher Kurtz (Greenwillow, 2002)

RECORDED MUSIC

“Here Sits a Monkey.” Raffi. The Corner Grocery Store.
“Monkey Bounce.” Stewart, Georgiana. Choo Choo to the Zoo: Creative Movement and Play.
“My Sister’s Monkey.” Pullara, Steve. One Potato, Two Potato.
“This Little Monkey.” Hammett, Carol. Preschool Action Time.

FINGERPLAYS/SONGS

“Monkey See, Monkey Do”

I clap my hands, monkeys do too.
Monkey see, monkey do.
I stomp my feet, monkeys do too.
Monkey see, monkey do.
I wave my arms . . .
I jump up and down . . .
I turn around . . .
I sing a song . . .
I hop on one foot . . .
“Five Little Monkeys Sitting in a Tree” (Traditional)

5 little monkeys sitting in a tree,
Teasing Mr. Crocodile: “Can’t catch me!”
Along comes Mr. Crocodile, quiet as can be.
SNAP!
4 little monkeys . . .
3 little monkeys . . .
2 little monkeys . . .
1 little monkey . . .
No little monkeys sitting in a tree.
Away swims Mr. Crocodile, full as can be.

“I’m a Little Monkey” (To the tune of “I’m a Little Teapot”)

I’m a little monkey, small and brown.
I can reach up and then touch the ground.
I can swing my tail and turn around.
I can jump up and then sit down.

“Swinging” (To the tune of “A Bicycle Built for Two”)

Swinging, swinging,
Swinging through the trees.
We are monkeys swinging in the breeze.
We wave our long tails,
And giggle without fail,
And we will swing,
And do our thing,
And eat bananas for lunch!

PROPS

* Flannelboard Rhyme: “Counting Bananas”

**Supplies:** 5 bananas, a monkey puppet

5 yellow bananas, and not one more.
The monkey ate one, and then there were 4.
4 yellow bananas, so yummy to see.
The monkey ate one, and then there were 3.
3 yellow bananas, and he knew what to do.
The monkey ate one, and then there were 2.
2 yellow bananas, hanging in the sun.
The monkey ate one, and then there was 1.
1 yellow banana, well, for goodness’ sake!
The monkey ate that one, and he got a tummyache!
Now there are no little bananas hanging on the tree.
Monkey, your tummy wouldn’t hurt, if you had shared them with me!

🌟 Flannelboard Song: “Color Monkeys” (To the tune of “Frère Jacques”)

**Supplies:** 5–6 monkey shapes in various colors; banana shapes (one for each child) in matching colors

I’m a red monkey, I’m a red monkey.
Look and see, look and see.
If you have a red banana,
Please bring it to me.

Repeat with other colors, inviting children to place their bananas on the flannelboard when their colors are called.

🌟 **CRAFTS**

★ **CD Monkey**

**Supplies:** 1 CD or CD-ROM for each child, 2 ear shapes cut from brown construction paper for each child, 1 circle cut from brown construction paper for each child, googly eyes, small round black stickers, crayons, glue

**Directions:**
1. Glue the circle to the CD to form the monkey’s muzzle.
2. Glue the ears to the sides of the CD.
3. Use the black stickers to form the monkey’s nostrils.
4. Glue on googly eyes and decorate with crayons as desired.
Woof and Wag

Excerpted from More Family Storytimes: Twenty-four Creative Programs for All Ages.
PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

OPENING SONG: “Alice the Beagle” from Sing-a-Move-a-Dance by Colleen and Uncle Squaty

PICTURE BOOK: The Best Pet of All by David LaRochelle

PICTURE BOOK: Widget by Lyn Rossiter McFarland

MOVEMENT ACTIVITY: “I Have Fleas” by Rob Reid

PICTURE BOOK: Bark, George by Jules Feiffer

SONG: “Bingo’s Friends” adapted by Rob Reid

PICTURE BOOK/MOVEMENT ACTIVITY: Move Over, Rover! by Karen Beaumont

SOUND-EFFECTS ACTIVITY: “My Dog Is a Noisy Dog” by Rob Reid

PICTURE BOOK/MOVEMENT ACTIVITY: Wiggle by Doreen Cronin

PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION

Opening Song: “Alice the Beagle.” Colleen and Uncle Squaty. Sing-a-Move-a-Dance.

The antics of Alice will set the tone for this lively story program. Kids and parents will hear about Alice’s encounter with kittens, which make her puff up, stamp her feet, bark real loud, and wag her tail. Colleen Hannafin and Brian Schellinger make up this award-winning musical duo from Wisconsin.

Picture Book: The Best Pet of All by David LaRochelle (Dutton, 2004)

A boy asks his mother if he can have a dog. His mother replies that dogs are too messy. The boy asks if he can have a dragon, and the amused mother says, “If you can find a dragon, you can keep it for a pet.” The boy finds a dragon at the drugstore. The dragon, however, turns out to be very messy. The boy suggests to his mother that dragons don’t like dogs. A dog shows up and the dragon leaves—but not before giving the boy the high-five sign. Were the two plotting plan from the beginning?

Picture Book: Widget by Lyn Rossiter McFarland (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2001)

Widget is a stray dog who wanders into a house where an old woman lives with her six cats. The cats, known as “the girls,” don’t like dogs. Widget pretends that he is a cat by meowing, puffing up, hissing and spitting, purring, playing...
with a toy mouse, and using the litter box. They all get along as cats until the woman falls down, injuring herself. Widget starts barking for help, the cats are stunned, but then they start barking, too.

**Movement Activity: “I Have Fleas,” by Rob Reid.**

The audience can do this starting in a sitting position.

I’m a dog and I have fleas,  
I have to scratch my ears. Arrrooooo! *(Scratch behind your ears with your left hand; howl)*  
I’m a dog and I have fleas,  
I have to scratch my back *(Scratch your back with your right hand)* and ears *(Scratch)*. Arrrooooo! *(Howl)*  
I’m a dog and I have fleas,  
I have to scratch my leg *(Pretend to bite your leg)* and back *(scratch)* and ears *(Scratch)*. Arrrooooo! *(Howl)*  
I’m a dog and I have fleas,  
I have to scratch my rear *(Stand and wiggle your hips)* and leg *(Bite)* and back *(Scratch)* and ears *(Scratch)*. Arrrooooo! *(Howl)*  
Thank goodness! *(Come to a complete stop)*  
I think they are gone! *(Slowly scratch behind one ear)*

**Picture Book: *Bark, George* by Jules Feiffer (HarperCollins, 1999)**

George’s mother tells her puppy to bark. Instead, he meows, then quacks, oinks, and moos. His worried mother takes him to the vet. When the vet reaches down George’s throat, he pulls out a cat, then a duck, a pig, and a cow. The next time George’s mother asks him to bark, however, he says, “Hello.” Ask the audience members to make the appropriate animal noises with George.

**Song: “Bingo’s Friends” (Adapted by Rob Reid)**

Sing the first verse of the traditional song “B-I-N-G-O.”

There was a farmer had a dog and Bingo was his name-o.  
B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O, and Bingo was his name-o.  
Then ask the audience members to shout out the name of their dog or the name of a dog they know. Alter the verse slightly by changing the word *farmer* to *family*. Keep in mind that the rhythm of the song will change depending on the number of letters in the dog names. Half the fun is trying to rush the longer names into the pattern, as in the following example

There was a family had a dog and Lilly Belle was her name-o,  
The trick here is to sing most of the letters in a monotone delivery and sing the last letter of the name in the pitch that matches the traditional song. Most dog names aren’t quite as challenging. In the next example, put a brief pause between the u and the following f when you say Fluffy.

There was a family had a dog and Fluffy was his name-o.  
F-L-U-F-F-Y, F-L-U-F-F-Y, F-L-U-F-F-Y, and Fluffy was his name-o.

It’s great fun to use the names of famous literary dogs children know, such as Shiloh, Snoopy, Walter, Susan Meddaugh’s Martha, or Clifford, the Big Red Dog.

There was a family read about a dog and Clifford was his name-o.  
C-L-I-F-F-O-R-D, C-L-I-F-F-O-R-D, C-L-I-F-F-O-R-D, and Clifford was his name-o.

**Picture Book/Movement Activity: Move Over, Rover! by Karen Beaumont (Harcourt, 2006)**

Rover is sleeping in his doghouse when a storm arrives. Several animals crowd into the doghouse with him. The last animal in is Skunk, which prompts the other animals to leave in a hurry. Rover finally gets his house back when the storm ends. Ask for volunteers to act out the cumulative story. You will need someone to play Rover, a cat, a raccoon, a squirrel, a blue jay, a snake, a mouse, and a skunk. Designate a small circle to represent the doghouse. The actors can crowd into the circle one by one. The rest of the audience can provide the storm sound effects. If your audience is too small to fill out a cast, you can simply read the story have the children make storm sounds.

**Sound-Effects Activity: “My Dog Is a Noisy Dog,” by Rob Reid**

Ask everyone to make the following dog noises with you.

- My dog is a noisy dog,  
  He barks and barks all day. *(Bark)*
- My dog is a noisy dog,  
  He growls and growls all day. *(Growl)*
- My dog is a noisy dog,  
  He whines and whines all day. *(Whine)*
- My dog is a noisy dog,  
  He pants and pants all day. *(Pant)*
- My dog is a noisy dog,  
  He slurps and slurps all day. *(Slurp)*
- My dog is a noisy dog,  
  He snores and snores all day—and night! *(Snore)*
Picture Book/Movement Activity: *Wiggle* by Doreen Cronin (Atheneum, 2005)

A dog shows off a series of movements. The dog wiggles upon waking, wiggles with his breakfast, wiggles his hair, and “wiggles where your tail would be.” He imagines what it’s like to wiggle with gorillas, fish, a crocodile, bees, snakes, and polar bears. At the very end of the book, the dog says, “Would you join me for a wiggle?” Lead the audience in series of wiggles, and while they are still wiggling, read the final lines. “I think we’re out of wiggles now. See you wiggle soon!”

**MIX AND MATCH: ADDITIONAL PICTURE BOOKS**

*Some Dog!* by Mary Casanova (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007)

George the dog has a comfortable life until a lively pup named Zippity joins the household. Everyone is amazed by Zippity’s energy and talents. Everyone, that is, except George, who is worn out by Zippity’s antics. Then a thunderstorm arrives, and Zippity panics and runs away. It’s up to George to rescue his small, scared housemate.

*That New Animal* by Emily Jenkins (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2005)

Dogs FudgeFudge and Marshmallow don’t like the “new animal” (a baby) who becomes part of their family. Their owners don’t pay as much attention to them as they once did. One day, “someone else arrives. They call him Grandpa.” When he heads toward the baby, the dogs bark “until the Grandpa goes and sits on the other side of the room.” It seems FudgeFudge and Marshmallow feel protective of the “new animal” after all.

*Bad Dog School* by Barbara Joose (Clarion, 2004)

Zippy is a high-energy dog. His young owner, Harris, loves him, but the rest of the family is worn out. They send Zippy to obedience school, and he returns a changed dog. But the family misses the old Zippy. They decide to send him to “Bad Dog School,” a school designed by Harris to reteach Zippy some of his old habits—but in moderation.

*Smelly Bill* by Daniel Postgate (North South, 2007)

Bill the dog rolls around in smelly garbage and muddy ponds. Great-Aunt Bleach shows up and cleans “the house from tip to toe.” She smells Bill and
Woof and Wag

says, “It’s bathie-wathie time for you!” Bill is caught and thrown into the bathtub. He escapes and jumps into the compost bin. Great-Aunt Bleach jumps in after him and is now the one who stinks.

**Bertie Was a Watchdog by Rick Walton (Candlewick, 2002)**

Bertie is a teeny-tiny dog. A robber breaks into the house and laughs at the notion of Bertie being a watchdog. Bertie tries biting the robber, but the bad guy says, “I think I felt a fly kiss my leg.” Then Bertie tries chasing the robber but is ridiculed. Finally the perky pup finds the perfect tactic to beat the villain.

**Additional Songs**


“Dog Rules.” Chapin, Tom. *In My Hometown.*


“Rags.” Sharon, Lois, and Bram. *Great Big Hits.*


Choose a Bird
THE EFFECT

Here’s a bit of bird magic to entertain your group. A volunteer points to one of five cards, each illustrated with a bird in a different color. The magician shuffles the cards. After eliminating four of the birds with a counting out rhyme, she reveals the chosen bird.

Supplies: 5 cards, 5” × 4”, each with a bird drawn in a different color (red, yellow, blue, green, orange)
5 envelopes in which to place the birds

Optional: A stand for the envelopes. Use an easel with a tray or ask a handy relative or someone at your local lumber yard to cut a ⅛” to ¼” groove, 1” deep, along the middle of a 2” × 2’ board. Or, glue 2”-high quarter-rounds to a board as shown in the illustration. This way, you can stand the envelopes up, leaving your hands free to manipulate the cards. If you have a smaller group you can lay the cards on a table.

PATTER AND PRESENTATION

There are many varieties of birds, but these five cards represent one species: Billy Book Bird. Each bird is a different color: red, yellow, blue, green, and orange. (Display each of the bird cards as you speak.)

I also have five bird houses. (Show the five envelopes.)

Jennifer (your volunteer), would you please point to the color of your choice? Jennifer has chosen the red bird (or whatever color she has selected).

I’m going to put her bird in its house. (Place in envelope.)

All the other birds will go in their houses. (Place each bird in a different envelope.)

Now I’ll mix up the bird houses. (As you shuffle the envelopes, keep track of which envelope holds the red bird. One way of doing this is to put a tiny mark somewhere on the envelope, making sure that you put the chosen card into that envelope.)
Choose a Bird

Remember that Jennifer has chosen the red bird. The birds are lined up on this telephone pole sleeping in their houses. *(Place the five envelopes in a line in your stand, making sure that the chosen card is in the middle.)*

Now let’s cheer for Billy Book Bird. We’ll say, “Billy Book Bird, Billy Book Bird, we love you.” Each time we chant, I’ll eliminate one bird house. But if Jennifer is to win, I can’t select the one containing the bird Jennifer has chosen. Let’s practice: “Billy Book Bird, Billy Book Bird, we love you.”

*(As each word is said, point to each envelope in turn, starting at one end of the row. When you reach the other end, go back to the beginning again and continue. Remove the envelope indicated on the last word of your rhyme. The trick works automatically! And it doesn’t matter which end of the row you start from so long as you start from the same end each time. When three of the cards are eliminated there will be just two left on the stand or table. No need to reveal the final losing card, just discard it and open the last envelope, which contains your volunteer’s red bird.)*

It’s red! Jennifer is the winner. Let’s give her a big hand.

Hint

You may want to eliminate the “bird houses.” If you do, simply face the birds toward you or lay them on the table and with a flourish reveal which bird has been eliminated.

Books to Share

*Grandfather’s Dream* by Holly Keller (Greenwillow, 1994)
*Grumpy Bird* by Jeremy Tankard (Scholastic, 2007)
*Loveykins* by Quentin Blake (Peachtree, 2003)
*One Cool Friend* by Toni Buzzeo (Dial, 2012)
*Osbert* by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel (Candelwick, 2004)
*The Parrot Tico Tango* by Anna Witte (Barefoot, 2005)
*Robin Where Are You?* by Harriet Ziefert (Blue Apple, 2012)
*Say Something Perico* by Trudy Harris (Milbrook, 2011)
*Subway Sparrow* by Leyla Torres (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1993)
*Tale of Pale Male: A True Story* by Jeanette Winter (Harcourt, 2007)
Pets

Excerpted from The Storytime Sourcebook II.
The activities and books below can be used year-round in storytime. They can form the basis of a money-raising event for a local pet-related charity, a thank you for all the unconditional love our pets give to us.

## PICTURE BOOKS

- **Aaaarrgghh! Spider!** by Lydia Monks (Houghton, 2004)
- **Dino Pets Go to School** by Lynn Plourde (Dutton, 2011)
- **Don't Take Your Snake for a Stroll** by Karin Ireland (Houghton, 2003)
- **Daddy, Could I Have an Elephant?** by Jake Wolf (Greenwillow, 1996)
- **I Took My Frog to the Library** by Eric A. Kimmel (Puffin, 1992)
- **I Wanna Iguana** by Karen Kaufman Orloff (Putnam, 2004)
- **My Elephant** by Petr Horacek (Candlewick, 2009)
- **My Rhinoceros** by Jon Agee (Michael di Capua, 2011)
- **Mysterious Tadpole** by Steven Kellogg (Penguin, 1977)
- **An Octopus Followed Me Home** by Dan Yaccarino (Viking, 1997)
- **The Perfect Pet** by Margie Palatini (Katherine Tegen, 2003)
- **Pet Shop Lullaby** by Mary Ann Fraser (Boyds Mills, 2009)
- **The Queen's Goat** by Margaret Mahy (Puffin, 1993)
- **Ride, Fly Guy, Ride!** by Tedd Arnold (Scholastic, 2012)

## CRAFTS

### "Pebble Pets"

There are many books and online sources suggesting designs and hints for making these “pets.” You’ll find a few below. Just remember when collecting stones, gather ones of many different sizes and always have a generous supply; once the children begin, they may want to make several pets to take home.

### Books

- **Let's Rock! Rock Painting for Kids** by Linda Kranz (Cooper Square, 2000)
- **Painted Rocks** by The Editors of Klutz (Klutz, 2000)
- **Painting on Rocks for Kids** by Lin Wellford (North Light Books, 2002)

### Websites

- [http://sites.google.com/site/rockartusa/](http://sites.google.com/site/rockartusa/)
ACTIVITIES

“A 4-H Pet Show”

Invite your local 4-H group to bring their pets to the program and speak to the children about these animals. These pets may include hamsters, rabbits, ducks, etc. This will allow small children an opportunity to see and touch animals they may have never touched before.

“Dog and Flea Game”

Fleas love to hop on a dog. Here’s a little game that takes a little skill but children will love to try again and again. It was adapted from Kathy Ross’s Crafts for Kids Who Are Wild about Insects (Millbrook, 1997).

**Supplies:** An oatmeal carton, a large brown sock; construction paper, tape, a dozen small rubber balls.

**Directions:** To create your dog, cover an oatmeal box with a brown sock, leaving the top of the box open. Add features, such as googly eyes, whiskers, and floppy ears. The fleas are made of small rubber balls. When everyone is ready to play, invite the children to see how many fleas they can get into the dog by bouncing them on the ground and letting them hop into the dog’s head.
Patterns for “PURR-FECT CATS”

by Melanie Fitz

(continued on next page)
Patterns for “PURR-FECT CATS”

by Melanie Fitz

(continued on next page)
Patterns for “PURR-FECT CATS”

by Melanie Fitz
Patterns for “MONKEY BUSINESS”
by Melanie Fitz

(continued on next page)
Patterns for “MONKEY BUSINESS”

by Melanie Fitz

(continued on next page)
Patterns for "MONKEY BUSINESS"

by Melanie Fitz
Pattern for “CHOOSE A BIRD”

by Richard Laurent
save up to 20%

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