Building Blocks of a Baby Storytime

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Oh Baby ...
Oh Baby, Why?

- Early Literacy development
- Helping to form good reading & library habits
- Servicing the patrons of the future
- Forming bonds between Baby & Caregiver
- Reaching out to new parents
- Meet new patrons and they get to meet new people
- Support system
- Bringing them into the Library!
Oh Baby, Who?

- The Parents!
- Babies!!! What Ages?
- Newborns
- Pre-Walkers
- Walkers
- Care-givers
- Nurseries
- Daycares
- Homeschool Groups
Oh Baby, Where & When?

- Children’s space or designated space
- Storyhour room
- Minimize outside distractions
- Morning, afternoon, evening, or weekend?
- Middle of the morning is best for babies
Oh Baby, How?

• Observe your community
• Observe other Baby Storytimes!!!
• Survey – paper or online
• Ease into it or Jump in
• Alternate between open playtime & storytime
• Weekly vs every other week
• Reach out/advertise to local day-cares, doctor’s offices, & nurseries
Oh Baby, What?

• Start with the basics
• Relax!
• Have Fun!
• Baby Name Game
• Persona: Super Storytime Librarian!!!
• Messages to Parents

• Length – how long?
• Style
  – Singing vs. CD
  – Activity
  – Puppets
  – Flannels
Oh Baby, What?

• Have a Plan
• To theme or not to theme?
• Storytime Messages:
  – Talking
  – Singing
  – Reading
  – Writing
  – Playing

• Accessories:
  – Shakers
  – Scarves
  – Ribbons
  – Bells
  – Rhythm Sticks
  – Toys
Oh Baby, What?

• Books
  – How many?
  – What kind of books
• Rhymes
  – Counting
  – Body Parts
• Songs – CDs
  – Singing & CDs
• Repetition!!!

• Handouts
• Toys
Oh Baby, What?

Storytime Plan 1:
• Welcome song
• Stretching Rhyme
• Book
• Rhyme
• Rhyme/Counting
• Book
• Song activity
• Rhyme
• Book
• Goodbye song

Storytime Plan 2:
• Welcome song
• Stretching Rhyme
• Book or Song Rhyme
• Rhyme
• Song activity
• Rhyme/Counting
• Book or Song Activity
• Goodbye song
Oh Baby, Snack Time!!!

• Favorites rhymes to pass along:

**Clap Your Hands**
Clap Your Hands, Clap Your Hands
Clap them just like me
Touch your shoulders, Touch your shoulders,
Touch them just like me.
Tap your knees, Tap your knees,
Tap them just like me.
Shake your head, shake your head,
Shake it just like me.
Clap your hands, clap your hands.
Now let them quietly be.

**Baby Hokey Pokey**
You put your arms up,
You put your arms down,
You put your arms up,
And you wave them all around
And you tickle, tickle, tickle
And you wiggle, wiggle, wiggle
That’s how baby hokey pokey goes! (clap in rhythm)
You put your legs up...
You put your baby up...

**Two Little Eyes**
Two Little Eyes to look around,
Two little Ears to hear each sound,
One little Nose to smell what’s sweet,
One little Mouth that likes to eat!
Nom, Nom, Nom, Nom, Nom,
And a Big Kiss! (Repeat)

**Cannot go wrong with:**
• Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes
• If You’re Happy and You Know It
• Itsy, Bitsy Spider
• Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star
Favorites books to pass along:

- “We’ve All Got Bellybuttons!” by David Martin
- “Whose ears?” By Rowe
- “Peekaboo, Blueberry!” by Barney Saltzberg
- “Baby Baby Baby” by Marilyn Janovitz
- “Where is Baby’s Belly Button?” by Katz
- “Toes, Ears, & Nose” by Bauer
- “Sing to Your Baby” Cathy Fink
- “Who’s There?” by Charles Reasoner
- “Whose Baby Am I?” by John Butler
- “Peek-a-Moo” by Cimarusti
Oh Baby, Snack Time!!!

Favorites CDs/Artists to pass along:

• Hap Palmer
• Laurie Berkner Band
• Raffi
• Carole Peterson
• Wee Sing for Baby
• Where is Thumbkin?
• A Child’s Celebration of Song
• Disney: Children’s Favorites (Volumes 1-4)
• Elizabeth Mitchell
Oh Baby, Snack Time!!!

Resources:

• “Babies in the Library” by Jane Marine
• “Games Babies Play: From Birth to Twelve Months” by Vicki Lansky
• King County Library System
  http://tmas.kcls.org/category/rhymes__songs/
• HandSpeak Blog
• LibraryVillage Blog
  http://libraryvillage.blogspot.com/p/baby-story-time.html
• Mel’s Desk
  http://melissa.depperfamily.net/blog/?page_id=3835
Thank You

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