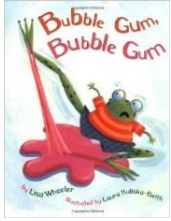


## Sensory Storytime Books & Activities

### **Bubble Gum, Bubble Gum by Lisa Wheeler**



#### **Subjects & Skills**

Rhythm, rhyme, and vocabulary

#### **Read Aloud Activity**

Place images of the characters on a board when each one gets stuck in the bubble gum OR pass out images of the characters and have kids bring them up when appropriate. If you own therabands, get them out and encourage kids to bend and stretch like gum.

#### **Afterwards or Before**

Sing this song using the animals from the book:

If you're a toad and you know it hop around, hop, hop

If you're a toad and you know it hop around, hop, hop

If you're a toad and you know it and you really want to show it

If you're a toad and you know it hop around, hop, hop...

#### **Sensory Extension Activity**

Bubble gum playdough with toy animals and other items you'd like to get "stuck" in it. Add bubblegum frosting mix to the playdough recipe (Duncan Hines Frosting Creations Flavor Mix if you can find it) for a bubblegum scent. Photo and extra ideas at

<http://choices4children.blogspot.com/2013/03/double-sensory-playdough.html>

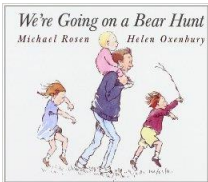
#### **Additional Books**

*Spiky, Slimy, Smooth: A Book About Texture* by Jane Brocket

*Little Blue Truck* by Alice Schertle



### **We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen**



#### **Subjects & Skills**

Bears, outdoor activities, blizzards, dramatic interpretation and vocabulary

#### **Read Aloud Activity**

Encourage kids to move "through" the different landscapes described in the book. Place pictures of each landscape on a flannel or magnet board as you go.

#### **Afterwards or Before**

Pass out paper snowflakes and swirl them around to a song or rhyme, such as:

Snowflake, snowflake falling down

Snowflake, snowflake touch the ground

Snowflake, snowflake on the wind

Snowflake, snowflake spin and spin!

#### **Sensory Extension Activity**

Sensory bags or bottles – Fill Ziploc bags (for touching and squishing) or empty water bottles (for listening to the items shake and whirl around):

- Long Wavy Grass – real or ornamental grass, or shredded green paper
- Deep, Cold River – water with blue food coloring
- Thick, Oozy Mud – mud from the backyard or mix some water with dirt
- Big, Dark Forest – sticks and twigs
- Swirling, Whirling Snowstorm – flour, powdered sugar, or cotton balls

Photo from <http://www.teachertypes.com/2014/09/were-going-on-bear-hunt-bringing-story.html>

#### **Additional Books**

*Where's My Teddy?* By Jez Alborough

*Snow* by Manya Stojic

*Bear Snores On* by Karma Wilson



## ***I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!* by Karen Beaumont**



### **Subjects & Skills**

Body part identification and fine motor skills

### **Read Aloud Activity**

Give children dry paint brushes to “paint” their body parts along with the story.

### **Afterwards or Before**

Sing “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes”

### **Sensory Extension Activity**

Add a thin layer of dry colored rice, barley, or Fruity Pebbles to a tray or bin. Provide a dry paint brush to write letters or draw pictures in the rice or barley. Photo from <http://fun-a-day.com/rainbow-sensory-writing-activity/>



### **Additional Books**

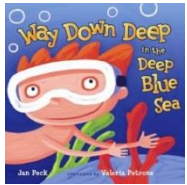
*From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle

*Nose to Toes, You Are Yummy* by Tim Harrington

*We've All Got Bellybuttons!* By David Martin

*Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh

## ***Way Down Deep in the Deep Blue Sea* by Jan Peck**



### **Subjects & Skills**

Under the sea, swimming, and bathtime

### **Read Aloud Activity**

Encourage kids to “swim” each time the phrase “swim away” is repeated. Place sea creatures from the story on a board and take them away when appropriate.

### **Afterwards or Before**

Pass out paper sea creatures and sing with movements to the tune *Wheels on the Bus*:

The fish/shark/whales in the sea go swish, swish, swish,

Swish, swish, swish, swish, swish, swish

The fish/shark/whales in the sea go swish, swish, swish,

All day long.

The waves in the sea go up and down...

The boats on the sea go toot, toot, toot...

### **Sensory Extension Activity**

Ocean Sensory Bags – Squirt blue hair gel, shampoo, or conditioner into a Ziplock bag.

Add glitter, sea creature toys and seal the bag shut, removing as much air as possible.

Secure the seal with duct tape to prevent leaking. Encourage kids to squish and play.

Photo from <http://kidsactivitiesblog.com/73966/ocean-sensory-bag>

OR Fill a bin with blue water (by adding food coloring) and add sea creature toys, shells, boats, etc. Add sand to make a beach or to watch it settle on the bottom of the bin.



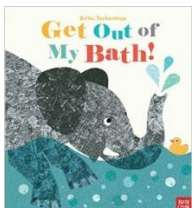
### **Additional Books**

*Rub-a-dub Sub* by Linda Ashman

*Hooray for Fish* by Lucy Cousins

*I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean* by Kevin Sherry

## ***Get Out of My Bath!* by Britta Teckentrup**



### **Subjects & Skills**

Bathing, bubbles, and motor control

### **Read Aloud Activity**

Encourage children to follow the actions described in the book.

### **Afterwards or Before**

Pass out a dry or slightly damp kitchen sponge to each child. Encourage kids to tap or scrub each body part along with the bathing version of *Head, Shoulder, Knees & Toes*:

Wash your head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes

Wash your head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes

Scrub your elbows and ears and chin and nose

Wash your head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes!



### Sensory Extension Activity

Bubble Prints – Add a dollop of paint or food coloring to a thin tray of bubble mixture to change the color of the mixture. Stamp a paper roll into the mixture and stamp it onto cardstock or construction paper. A bubble will form on the paper and leave a print once it has popped. Image from <http://vividlayers.blogspot.com/2011/12/bubble-prints.html>

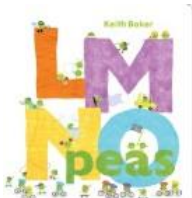
### Additional Books

*Big Red Tub* by Julia Jarman

*Bears in the Bath* by Shirley Parenteau

*Squeaky Clean* by Simon Puttock

### LMNO Peas by Keith Baker



### Subjects & Skills

Letter recognition and green peas

### Read Aloud Activity

Act out some of the motions exhibited by the peas in this excellent alphabet book.

### Afterwards or Before

Sing the alphabet song

### Sensory Extension Activity

Pea Dot Painting – Print or cut out a block letter (the first letter in each child's name) similar to the ones in the story. Provide green paint and green peas or pom pom balls. Dip the peas/pom balls into the paint and dot all over the paper to make pea prints.

Photo from <http://preschoolalphabet.blogspot.com/2012/04/p-is-for-peas.html>

### Additional Books

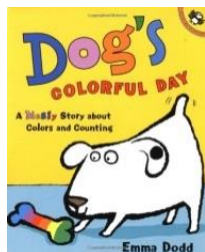
*Alligator Alphabet* by Paula Blackstone

*The Sleepy Little Alphabet* by Judy Sierra

*1-2-3 Peas* by Keith Baker

*Little Green Peas* by Keith Baker

### Dog's Colorful Day by Emma Dodd



### Subjects & Skills

Colors, counting, dogs, and bathing

### Read Aloud Activity

Give each child a colored dot to bring up and put on a felt or magnet board dog throughout the story.

### Afterwards or Before

Sing "If you are wearing red today, red today, red today. If you are wearing red today stand up and shout hooray!" Continue with other colors the kids are wearing.

### Sensory Extension Activity

Provide a coloring sheet of Dog (a white dog with a black dot on his ear). Set out crayons, dot stickers or the actual materials that got Dog dirty for children to make their own messy Dogs. Photo from: <http://librarylaura.blogspot.com/2015/01/books-n-play-for-pre-k.html>

Dirty materials from the story include:

- Red jam – use actual jam, paint, dot stickers, or dot markers
- Blue paint – use blue paint! Or blue dot stickers or dot markers
- Green grass – glue grass to dog, green paint, dot stickers, or dot markers
- Chocolate – use a chocolate bar like a crayon to color a dot, or brown paint, dot stickers, or dot markers
- Yellow Pollen – glue yellow powdered tempera paint or powdered lemonade mix, yellow paint, dot stickers, or dot markers
- Pink ice cream – Add pink coloring to shaving cream, pink paint, dot stickers, or dot markers
- Gray mud – gray paint, dot stickers, or dot markers

- Orange juice – concentrated orange juice from the freezer section or orange paint, dot stickers, or dot markers
- Purple marker – use purple marker! Or purple paint, dot stickers, or dot markers

#### **Additional Books**

*Pete the Cat I Love My White Shoes* by Eric Litwin

*Monsters Love Colors* by Mike Austin

*Dog's Noisy Day* by Emma Dodd

*Dog's ABC* by Emma Dodd

### **Fall Leaves Fall by Zoe Hall**



#### **Subjects & Skills**

The sights and sounds of autumn

#### **Read Aloud Activity**

Give kids actual leaves or paper leaves to wave throughout the story, toss into the air, and drop to watch float to the ground. The story also lends itself well to movement, such as stomping to crunch leaves and jumping.

#### **Afterwards or Before**

Sing “The leaves on the trees are falling down, falling down, falling down. The leaves on the trees are falling down, all through the town. The leaves in the air go swish, swish, swish...” to the tune of London Bridge. Use your hands or provide leaves as props.

#### **Sensory Extension Activity**

Fall leaf confetti craft – Crumble up dry leaves ahead of time or let the little ones do it for you. Put glue on paper that is cutout to look like a leaf and kids sprinkle, toss, or pat the crumbled leaf onto the glue. Photo from

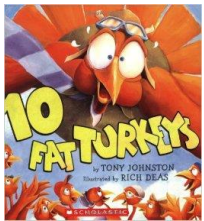
<http://cuteandpeculiar.blogspot.com/2012/09/fall-leaf-confetti-or-maybe-glitter.html>

#### **Additional Books**

*Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf* by Lois Ehlert

*Mouse's First Fall* by Lauren Thompson

### **10 Fat Turkeys by Tony Johnston**



#### **Subjects & Skills**

Counting, turkeys, and fine motor skills

#### **Read Aloud Activity**

Place 10 turkey pictures (flannel or paper) on a board and take them away throughout the story.

#### **Afterwards or Before**

Sing “The Turkey Hop” by Carole Peterson from the album *H.U.M. All Year Long!*

Do the turkey hop: Hop, Hop, Hop!

Do the turkey run: Run, Run, Run!

Do the turkey gobble: Gobble, Gobble, Gobble!

It is lots of fun: Gobble, Gobble, Gobble!

Now flap your wings: Flap! Flap! Flap!

Like the turkeys do: Flap! Flap! Flap!

Then hide from the farmer, before he catches you!

#### **Sensory Extension Activity**

Playdough Turkeys – Provide playdough, colorful feathers, googly eyes, and foam or paper triangles for the beak. Ask children to count out X number of feathers for their turkey, eyes, and beaks. Photo from <http://mamapapabubba.com/2014/10/11/play-dough-turkeys/>

#### **Additional Books**

*I'm a Turkey!* By Jim Arnosky

*Gobble Gobble* by Cathryn Falwell

*Thanks for Thanksgiving* by Jules Marques





## Ten Apples Up On Top by Dr. Seuss

Stacking Apples Squeeze Balls



### Subjects & Skills

Fruits, vegetables, and counting

### Read Aloud Activity

Provide kids with texture ball “apples” to hold, squeeze, knead, or stack on their heads during or after the story. Fill red balloons with flour or sand using a funnel and tie off the ends to create the texture ball “apples.”

### Afterwards or Before

Ask what other fruits and vegetables they know or like to eat and work them into this song to the tune “Old MacDonald”:

Fruit and veggies are good for me - EE I EE I O

And so I eat them happily - EE I EE I O

With a carrot here, and a carrot there

Here a carrot, there a carrot, everywhere a carrot, carrot

Fruits and veggies are good for me - EE I EE I O

### Sensory Extension Activity

In addition to playing with the texture ball “apples,” cut apples in half and use them as paint stamps (potatoes, bell peppers, celery, and onions make great stamps too!) OR if you are feeling super adventurous, add some apple slices and applesauce to a sensory bin and let the kids squish and mash. Photo and more ideas at

<http://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/apple-squeeze-balls-stacking-activity/>

### Additional Books

*Edible Numbers* by Jennifer Vogel Bass

*Vegetables in Underwear* by Jared Chapman

*Ten in the Bed* by Jane Cabrera

*The Noisy Counting Book* by Susan Schade

## Sensory Play & Storytime Resources

### Presentation Slides & Notes Available at:

[www.theyouthdesk.org/sensory-storytime](http://www.theyouthdesk.org/sensory-storytime) under "More Resources"

### Books for Sensory Play Ideas

*Starting Sensory Therapy: Fun Activities for the Home and Classroom* by Bonnie Arnwine

*Sensory Play* by Gayle Jervis and Kristen Jervis Cacka

*150+ Screen Free Activities* by Asia Citro

*Come and Play: Sensory-Integration Strategies for Children with Play Challenges* by Aerial Cross

*Loose Parts: Inspiring Play in Young Children* By Lisa Daly & Miriam Beloglovsky

### Online Resources for Ideas & Fun

The Youth Desk – Book lists and program ideas for educators & librarians at [www.theyouthdesk.org](http://www.theyouthdesk.org)

The Youth Desk Pinterest Page [www.pinterest.com/theyouthdesk](http://www.pinterest.com/theyouthdesk)

Learning 4 Kids – Play ideas organized by age and subject [www.learning4kids.net/](http://www.learning4kids.net/)

Books for Sensory Storytime from the ALSC Blog [www.alsc.org/blog/2013/09/too-many-choices-books-to-read-during-sensory-storytimes/](http://www.alsc.org/blog/2013/09/too-many-choices-books-to-read-during-sensory-storytimes/)

Little Bins for Little Hands <http://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/kids-sensory-play-ideas/>

Hands On As We Grow <http://handsonaswegrow.com/sensory-activities-for-kids/>

### Sensory Bin/Table Fillers

- Beans – pinto or black
- Birdseed
- Buttons or beads
- Cotton balls or pom balls
- Dirt – mud or dry
- Feathers
- Flower petals, leaves, pinecones
- Pasta – cooked or uncooked
- Pebbles – from backyard or bought, aquarium gravel (comes in bright colors)
- Popcorn – popped or kernels
- Rice – uncooked, plain or multicolor
- Sand – wet or dry, natural or multicolor
- Shredded paper
- Water – tinted with food coloring, scents, ice cubes

### Try Using These Items As Paintbrushes:

- Cardboard tubes or paper rolls – add bubble mixture to paint for extra fun!
- Cotton balls or pom balls – clip a clothespin on for a handle
- Cotton swabs
- Eye droppers
- Fingers
- Fruit and vegetables – broccoli heads, apples, peppers, or potatoes cut in half and use as stamps
- Bubble wrap
- Dried corncobs
- Ice cubes – add food coloring and insert a craft stick as a handle before freezing
- Pastry brushes
- Rolling pins
- Spray bottles

## **No Cook Playdough Recipe**

- 6 cups plain flour (all purpose)
- 6 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3 cups salt
- 6 tablespoons cream of tartar
- Up to 4.5 cups boiling water (adding in increments until feels just right)
- Food coloring or icing gel of your choice
- For extra fun add glitter, pumpkin spice, cinnamon, lemon zest, or kool-aid packets for sparkle and/or scent.

## **Rainbow Rice Recipe**

Recipe from <http://happyhooligans.ca/how-to-dye-rice-sensory-play/>

- Pour 1 cup of uncooked white rice into a container (container will need a lid)
- Add food coloring or icing gels (Wilton Icing Gels work well) and ½ tsp of white vinegar
- Snap the lid on your container and SHAKE, SHAKE, SHAKE!
- Once rice is evenly colored, dump it out onto a baking sheet, tray, or pie pan to dry for a day
- Rinse out the container and repeat the process with your next color