

Babies/Toddlers Storytimes

*Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions. –
Albert Einstein*

1. Encouraging artistic imagination:

Books:

- *A Big Mistake*, by Lenore Rinder
- *Beautiful Oops!* by Barney Saltzberg (interactive board book)
- *Harold's Fairy Tale (Further Adventures with the Purple Crayon)*, by Crockett Johnson

Fingerplay/song: (Tune: "I'm a Little Teapot")

I'm a little artist. *(Point to self.)*
I like to draw *(Use finger to draw in the air.)*
And hang my pictures on the wall. *(Pretend to hang a picture.)*
I can make squares *(Draw a square in the air.)*
And I can make circles. *(Draw a circle in the air.)*
I can make them blue
Or another color, maybe purple?

-From Let's Pretend: 50 Start-to-finish Preschooler Programs for the Busy Librarian that Foster Imagination by Rebecca C. Bane (page 93)

Activities:

- Painting to music: Set up easels, tempera paint, finger painting paper, dot-paints, or other free exploration art stations. (Have extra paper ready.) Play music to inspire young artists to explore colors and shapes. Prepare music tracks, changing to a different tempo or mood every 5-10 minutes or as you see fit. (Be sure parents know there is no correct "answer" to this activity.)



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- Sample music selections include Enya, classical composers, drum music, and fast-tempo jazz.
- See painting to music photos here:
<http://babiestoddlerspreschoolers.blogspot.com/2012/02/musical-painting.html>
- If using *Harold and the Purple Crayon* books, show children many purple items and display them in the room. (Eggplant, purple grapes, purple potatoes, prunes and plums elicit interesting comments from toddlers!) Then set out a variety of purple paints, purple markers, purple pencils, purple chalk and of course purple crayons. Alternatively, “pretend” you don’t have purple but figure out how to make the color by mixing red and blue tempera paint. Display other “purple” books for checkout, including *Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse* (Henkes), *Purplicious* (Kann), and *Mouse Paint* (Walsh).

Snacks: Anything purple!

2. Fun with Fish:

Book: *Hooray for Fish!* by Lucy Cousins

Song and Movement: (Tune: “Farmer in the Dell”)

With my magic fish,
With my magic fish,
I can do most anything,
With my magic fish.

I can swim around,
I can swim around,
I can do most anything,
With my magic fish.

I can jump up high...etc.
I can spin around...etc.

Song and Movement: (Tune: “I’m a Little Teapot”)



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I'm a little fishy, I can swim.
Here is my tail, here is my fin.
When I want to have fun with my friends,
I wiggle my tail and dive right in.

--*Literacy Play: Over 300 Dramatic Play Activities that Teach Pre-Reading Skills*

by Sherrie West and Amy Cox (page 86)

Poem and flannel board: "The Fish with the Deep Blue Smile" by Margaret Wise Brown

They fished and they fished
Way down in the sea,
Down in the sea a mile.
They fished among all the fish in the sea,
For the fish with the deep sea smile.

One fish came up from the deep of the sea,
From down in the sea a mile,
It had blue-green eyes
And whiskers three
But never a deep sea smile.

One fish came from the deep of the sea,
From down in the sea a mile,
With electric lights up and down his tail
But never a deep sea smile.

They fished and they fished
Way down in the sea,
Down in the sea a mile.
They fished among all the fish in the sea,
For the fish with a deep sea smile.

One fish came up with terrible teeth,
One fish with long strong jaws,



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One fish came up with long stalked eyes,
One fish with terrible claws.

They fished all through the ocean deep,
For many and many a mile.
And they caught a fish with a laughing eye,
But none with a deep sea smile.

And then one day they got a pull,
From down in the sea a mile.
And when they pulled the fish into the boat,
He smiled a deep sea smile.

And as he smiled the hook got free,
And then, what a deep sea smile!
He flipped his tail and swam away,
Down in the sea a mile.



*Flannel board fish
thanks to: Helen
Robinson, McCall
Public Library*



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Activities:

- Imagine your own creative fish. Provide children with art and craft materials to decorate their own fish. Older children may want to draw their own fish, but you can find templates here:
https://www.google.com/search?q=fish+template&rlz=1C1GGLS_en-USUS291&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=fkU3UpXNMoKtiQLI_YGYAw&ved=0CCsQsAQ&biw=1440&bih=809&dpr=1
- Fishing for Letters: use what you have in the library for this fun activity:
[http://www.firstpalette.com/Craft themes/Alphabet and Numbers/Fishing for Letters/Fishing for Letters.html](http://www.firstpalette.com/Craft%20themes/Alphabet%20and%20Numbers/Fishing%20for%20Letters/Fishing%20for%20Letters.html)
- More Fishing for Letters: <http://www.kiwicrate.com/projects/Fishing-for-Letters/303>

Snacks: Goldfish crackers, rainbow colors

3. Imagine a Bakery

Books:

- *Mud is Cake*, by Pat Muñoz Ryan
- *What Should I Make?* by Nandini Nayar

Fingerplays:

- Pat-a-Cake
- Baking
Sift it,
Sift it,
Yum, yum, yum.
I can't wait
Till the cookies are done.

Mix it,
Mix it,
Yum, yum, yum.
Count the chocolate chips,
One by one.

Roll it,



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Roll it,
Yum, yum, yum,
Onto the cookie sheet,
Hot as the sun.

Bake it,
Bake it,
Yum, yum, yum,
Cookies are rising,
They're almost done.

Eat it,
Eat it,
Yum, yum, yum,
This has really been,
So much fun.

--*Literacy Play: Over 300 Dramatic Play Activities that Teach Pre-Reading Skills*
by Sherrie West and Amy Cox (page 69)

Activities:

- Discuss playing "make-believe." Bring your "make-believe box" out for the children. Inside, have several of the items from the *Mud is Cake* story, like a stick, a pot, a box, or even some mud. Allow children to play make-believe, as appropriate.
- Provide lots of play dough for an open-ended art exploration time.
- Send families home with recipe cards. Mud cake:
<http://simplerthanyouthink.blogspot.com/2009/06/5-min-chocolate-mud-cake-in-cup.html>
- Edible play dough: <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Edible-Play-Dough-and-Finger-Paint>



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