

Picture Book Program  
Theme: Birds



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March 16, 2011

Good afternoon, boys and girls! Welcome to story time! Who's ready to hear some stories?

### Introduction (Singing/Action Activity)

"If You're Ready for a Story" (to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

If you're ready for a story, clap your hands (clap, clap).

If you're ready for a story, clap your hands (clap, clap).

If you're ready for a story and you really want to show it;

If you're ready for a story, clap your hands (clap, clap).

If you're ready for a story, stomp your feet (stomp, stomp).

If you're ready for a story, stomp your feet (stomp, stomp).

If you're ready for a story and you really want to show it;

If you're ready for a story, stomp your feet (stomp, stomp).

If you're ready for a story, find your seat.

If you're ready for a story, find your seat.

If you're ready for a story and you really want to show it;

If you're ready for a story, find your seat.

(Kinsella, 2011)

Today we are going to hear stories about our feathered friends, birds. If you haven't already please put on your bird name tag and we'll get started.

We'll begin today with the story of *The Ugly Duckling*.

### Picture Book Presentation



*The Ugly Duckling*, by Hans Christian Andersen

What a great story! Now, let's stand up and sing a song about five little ducks.

### Story Stretch (Chanting/Action Activity)

“Five Little Ducks” (Silberg & Schiller, 2002, p. 121)

Five little ducks went out one day (*hold up five fingers*)

Over the hills and far away. (*hill motion with arm*)

Papa duck called with a

“Quack, quack, quack.” (*clap, clap, clap*)

Four little ducks came swimming back. (*swimming motion with arm*)

*Repeat, losing one more duck each time until you are left with one duck. Have mama duck call and end with “five little ducks came swimming back.”*

Let’s sit back and listen to another story. Now, I’ll tell you a story about how the Gabblers very first egg was *EGG-napped*.

### Picture Book Presentation

*EGG-napped*, by Marisa Montes



And that was the story of the Gabblers first baby goose. So far, we’ve heard stories about ducks and geese. Let’s hear stories about birds that live in trees. But first, let’s stand up and stretch out a bit. I’ll go through the stretch once and then you join me.

### Story Stretch (Action Activity)

“Trees” (Cooper, 1995, p. 21)

Elm trees stretch and stretch so wide. (*spread arms out*)

Their limbs reach out on every side. (*move stretched arms up and down*)

Pine trees stretch and stretch so high. (*raise arms above head*)

They very nearly reach the sky. (*reach up high on tippy toes*)

Willows droop and droop so low. (*bend over at the waist with arms hanging down*)

Their branches sweep the ground below.

Now, I'll tell you a tale about "The Bird and Her Babies."

### Flannel Board Story

"The Bird and Her Babies: A Sri Lankan Folktale" (Sierra, 1996, p. 54)

*Hide baby birds underneath the tree prior to beginning the program. Place the mother bird to the left of the tree, then, as the story progresses, place the other figures onto the feltboard. As each character plays its part in the story, remove it from the board. Finally, lift the tree just a bit and slide the babies out.*

A bird pecked a hole in the trunk of a hollow tree and built a nest inside. She laid her eggs, and when they hatched, the baby birds were hungry. The mother bird fed them well, morning, noon, and night. The babies grew fat. When it was time for them to leave the nest and learn to fly, they were too large to get out of the hole in the tree.

So the mother bird went to the carpenter and asked him to cut the hole bigger so that her babies could get out and learn to fly. But the carpenter said, "No, why should I?"

Then the bird went to a snake and asked the snake to bite the carpenter, because the carpenter wouldn't cut the tree, and the bird's babies couldn't get out and learn to fly. But the snake said, "No, why should I?"

Then the bird went to the elephant, and asked the elephant to step on the snake, because the snake wouldn't bite the carpenter, and the carpenter wouldn't cut the tree, and the bird's babies couldn't get out and learn to fly. But the elephant said, "No, why should I?"

Then the bird met a mouse. She asked the mouse to get inside the elephant's trunk and tickle him, because the elephant wouldn't step on the snake, and the snake wouldn't bite the carpenter, and the carpenter wouldn't cut the tree, and the bird's babies couldn't get out and learn to fly. But the mouse said, "No, why should I?"

Then the bird found a cat. She asked the cat to chase the mouse, because the mouse wouldn't tickle the elephant, and the elephant wouldn't step on the snake, and the snake wouldn't bite the carpenter, and the carpenter wouldn't cut the tree, and the bird's babies couldn't get out and learn to fly.

And the cat said, "Why shouldn't I chase the mouse? It would be my pleasure."

Then the cat began to chase the mouse, the mouse began to tickle the elephant's trunk, the elephant began to step on the snake, the snake began to bite the carpenter, the carpenter cut open the tree, and the bird's babies got out and learned to fly. And that's the end!

And that was the story of "The Bird and Her Babies." Now, I will tell you a story about owls. An owl's feathers, which are frayed on the edges, quiet the sound of its flapping wings. This allows the owl to silently swoop down on its prey while hunting at night. Owls usually build their nests in hollow trees, caves, or deserted houses and barns (Cooper, 1995).

## Picture Book Presentation



*The Barn Owls*, by Tony Johnston

And that was the story of “The Barn Owls.” Okay, everyone stand up. I’ll recite “The Owl in the Barn” and then you repeat it with me.

## Story Stretch (Fingerplay)

“The Owl in the Barn” (Cooper, 1995, p. 10)

A little boy went into a barn, (*make walking motion with index and middle fingers*)

And lay down on some hay. (*place hands under head like a pillow*)

An owl came out and flew about, (*make flapping motion with arms outstretched*)

And the little boy ran away. (*make walking motion with index and middle fingers*)

Okay, I think we have time for one more story. A not so scary story about a crow.

## Picture Book Presentation

*The Crow*, by Alison Paul



Alright boys and girls, it's almost time to go. Stand up and listen to a quick rhyme about "Two Little Blackbirds." Watch me go through the rhyme once, and then join me.

### Wrapping Up (Fingerplay)

"Two Little Blackbirds" (Silberg & Schiller, 2002, p. 430)  
Two little blackbirds (*hold up index finger of each hand*)  
Sitting on a hill.  
One named Jack. (*hold right hand/finger forward*)  
One named Jill. (*hold left hand/finger forward*)  
Fly away, Jack. (*wiggle right finger and place behind your back*)  
Fly away, Jill. (*wiggle left finger and place behind your back*)  
Come back, Jack. (*bring right hand back*)  
Come back, Jill. (*bring left hand back*)

Now it's time for all of you to fly away, but I hope that you will come back next week just like our blackbird friends, Jack and Jill. Let's end our time together with a song.

### Conclusion (Singing)

"The More We Get Together"  
The more we get together, together, together  
The more we get together the happier we'll be.  
For your friends are my friends,  
And my friends are your friends.  
The more we get together the happier we'll be.

The more we read together, together, together  
The more we read together the happier we'll be.  
For your friends are my friends,  
And my friends are your friends.  
The more we read together the happier we'll be.

(Kinsella, 2011)

**Picture Books Used in Program:**

Anderson, H. C. (2000). *The ugly duckling*. New York: North-South.  
Johnston, T. (2000). *The barn owls*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge.  
Montes, M. (2002). *Egg-napped*. Singapore: HarperCollins.  
Paul, A. (2007). *The crow: A not so scary story*. New York: Houghton Mifflin.

**Other Suggested Titles for Theme:**

Dorros, A. (2003). *City chicken*. New York: HarperCollins.  
Hutchins, P. (1972). *Good-night owl!* New York: Macmillan  
Galdone, P. (1968). *Henny Penny*. New York: Clarion.  
Pomerantz, C. (1989). *Flap your wings and try*. New York: Greenwillow.  
Ray, M. L. (2004). *Welcome brown bird*. Orlando, FL. Harcourt.  
Waddell, M. (2001). *Webster J. Duck*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick.  
Wattenberg, J. (2000). *Henny Penny*. New York: Scholastic.  
Willems, M. (2008). *The pigeon wants a puppy*. New York: Hyperion.

**Other Resources Consulted:**

Sierra, J. (1987). *The flannel board storytelling book*. New York: H. W. Wilson.  
Sierra J. & Kaminski, R. *Multicultural folktales: Stories to tell young children*. Phoenix, AZ: Oryx.

## References

Cooper, K. (1995). *Too many rabbits and other fingerplays: about Animals, nature, weather, and the universe*. New York: Scholastic.

Kinsella, M. A., (2011). *Part two: Telling to three to five year olds*. Retrieved from <http://www.marilynkinsella.org/Workshop%20papers/Perfect%20story%20Papers/Perfect%20Story%20PART%20TWO.htm>

Sierra, J. (1996). *Multicultural folktales for the feltboard and readers' theater*. Phoenix, AZ: Oryx.

Silberg, J. & Schiller, P. B., (2002). *The complete book of rhymes, songs, poems, fingerplays, and chants*. Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House.

A book list featuring birds and nests for preschool, pre-k, and kindergarten classrooms; books for a bird theme or spring theme; Pre-K books to read. Books about birds for pre-k and kindergartners. A bird study is perfect accompaniment to a spring theme (or just a fun science exploration for kids). Preschoolers can discover where birds live, what they eat, what their nests look like. They can begin to look for these birds around your school or home. This simple book will encourage preschoolers to think about birds around them. Birds (Look and Learn) by National Geographic Kids Photographs and simple text provide an introduction to different kinds of birds. An Egg is Quiet by Dianna Hutts Aston A look at all kinds of eggs and the ways they look and feel. Bird Theme Art. Rainbow Birds. Materials Needed: One large and one small paper plate for each child for the head and body of bird (or you can cut out or draw and have the children cut out their own circles); various colors of paint; paintbrushes; scissors; white glue; one 6-inch or so piece of pipe cleaner for each child; feathers; wiggly eyes. See more ideas about Preschool crafts, Bird theme and Preschool art. This egg carton owl didn't go with a book on the blog post but I think it would be perfect to go with owl babies, Ollie, or any other sweet owl book. Janet Ramskugler. bird theme. Daycare Crafts Toddler Crafts Fun Crafts Crafts For Kids Pirate Crafts Spring Craft For Toddlers Family Crafts Arts And Crafts Feather Crafts. Birds of a feather, flock together - super cute craft from @LittlePageTurners. Janet Ramskugler. bird theme. Spring Activities Preschool Activities Preschool Crafts Classroom Crafts Daycare Crafts Crafts For Kids Spring Art Spring Crafts Spring Birds. Super cute birds in