

Read, sing, talk, write, and play when engaging with your young child. Use the books and toys in this kit, along with the activities below, to support the development of early literacy skills and instill a love of reading.

Read

Read the books in this kit with your child. Take time to look at and talk about the pictures.

Make the story come alive! Don't be afraid to use voices and have fun with reading.

Ask your child questions about what is happening in the story and what they think may happen next.

Encourage your child to participate: filling in rhymes, chanting refrains, making sounds, and acting out parts of the story.

While reading *Pet This Book*, make sure to follow the actions and interact with each centerfold page!

Sing

You can sing any of these tunes with the aid of the included puppets and cutouts!

How Much Is That Doggie in the Window?

How much is that doggie in the window?
The one with the waggly tail.
How much is that doggie in the window?
I do hope that doggie's for sale.

I don't want a bunny or a kitty,
I don't want a parrot that talks.
I don't want a bowl of little fishies,
You can't take a fish for a walk.

How much is that doggie in the window?
The one with the waggly tail.
How much is that doggie in the window?
I do hope that doggie's for sale.

Pets Rhyme

Hop, hop, hop like your bunny
Run, run, run like your dog
Walk, walk, walk like your cat
Jump, jump, jump like your frog
Swim, swim, swim like your goldfish
Fly, fly, fly like your bird
Slow way down like a turtle
And don't say a word. Shhh!

I Had a Little Turtle

I had a little turtle
(make a fist with thumb sticking out, cover with other hand to make a turtle)
His name was Tiny Tim
I put him in the bathtub
To see if he could swim *(make swimming motions)*
He drank up all the water *(glug, glug, glug, glug)*
He ate up all the soap *(pretend to eat)*
Now he's home, sick in bed
With bubbles in his throat *(pat throat)*
Bubble, bubble, bubble *(rotate arms around each other)*
Bubble, bubble, POP! *(clap on "pop")*
Bubble, bubble, bubble
Bubble, bubble, POP!



Talk

Using the puppets, can you make each of the animals talk?
What sounds do they make?

Make the puppets have a conversation with each other! What would a cat say to a rabbit? What would a dog say to a bird?

Do any of the animals in these stories remind you of any animals you know?

Write

In *Can I Be Your Dog?*, Arfy and his potential owners write letters back and forth. Write a short letter to one (or all) of your pets, or to an animal that you know. You could even write to an animal at the Potter Park Zoo.

Place the Lace and Trace Pets on a big piece of paper. Practice your fine motor skills by tracing them with a pencil or a crayon. When you're done, can you match the pets to their outlines? Color them in to make your own artwork.

Play

Using the Lace and Trace Pets, weave the included laces through each pet shape. Lacing activities improve fine motor skills!

Act out any or all of the stories with the puppets (or even the Lace and Trace Pets) as someone reads the story aloud.

My Pet Wants a Pet stars a lot of different animals! Can you pretend to be each of the animals each time they are mentioned? Make sure to pay close attention!

This tip sheet stays with the kit. For a copy of your own, visit dtdl.org/littlethings. For more books, songs, rhymes, and activity ideas to share with your child, visit dtdl.org/storytimes.