

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.

The books in this kit represent different ways of telling the story of Rapunzel. After reading them all, talk about how they are the same and how they are different. Which book is your child's favorite and why?

Sing

Clapping in the Castle

There is clapping in the castle, there is clapping in the castle
There is clapping in the castle, we're clapping all around!

There is jumping with the jesters, we're is jumping all around
There is twirling in the towers, we're twirling all around
There is dancing on the drawbridge, we're dancing all around

Curtsy Like a Princess

Tune: Skip to My Lou

Curtsy like a princess just like so
Curtsy like a princess just like so
Curtsy like a princess just like so
Curtsy like a princess!

Continue with: bow like a prince, juggle like a jester, fly like a fairy, roar like a dragon

Talk

Talk about feelings. How did Rapunzel feel when she was up in the tower? Help your child identify and name feelings that they have. Examples: lonely, sad, angry, frustrated, happy, joyous.

Good listeners have the skills to absorb what they've heard, analyze it, make sense of it, and repeat it. Ask your child what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the book. Make up new endings to the books, the sillier the better.

Write

Draw the ultimate tower. If you were in a tower, what would you need, what would you want?

Looking at the books, can you write out Rapunzel's name?
Can you write out your own name? Are any of the letters the same?

Play

Get out the castle blocks and encourage your child to create a fascinating fortress or a spacious palace. Take turns building a castle – close your eyes while your child builds a castle just for you. Now it's your turn to surprise them with a castle you build especially for them!

Stack the blocks as high as you can; now count them. Now try lining up the blocks - who can make the longest line of blocks? Who can make the tallest tower?

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.