Kaleidecope Sensory Storytimes Resources: Books and Props
Presenter: Gail Wellock, Fairfax County Public Library

Tried and True Books for Sensory Storytimes

Read Sing, Read to a Beat, Repeating Phrases

The Ants Go Marching by Dan Crisp
The ants are marching through the rain, but there is always something to distract Little Ant.

*Baby Ways by Nola Allen/Margaret Robson Kett
Features photographs of babies between six and 12 months old, accompanied by simple text. Everyday activities are reflected, including holding and walking.

Children see a variety of animals, each one a different color, and a teacher looking at them.

Freight Train by Donald Crews
Brief text and illustrations trace the journey of a colorful train as it goes through tunnels, by cities and over trestles.

From Head to Toe by Eric Carle
Encourages the reader to exercise by following the movements of various animals; presented in a question and answer format.

Hands Can by Cheryl Willis Hudson
Photographs and simple, rhyming text present different things that hands can do, such as hold things, mix things and wave goodbye.

Here are My Hands by Bill Martin
The owner of a human body celebrates it by pointing out various parts and mentioning their functions, from "hands for catching and throwing" to the "skin that bundles me in."

I Went Walking by Sue Williams
Catchy stanzas frolic through Williams's simple, funny read-aloud picture book that tracks a crazy-haired boy's stroll through the countryside.

In the Small, Small Pond by Denise Fleming
Illustrations and rhyming text describe the activities of animals living in and near a small pond as spring progresses to autumn.
In the Tall, Tall Grass by Denise Fleming
Rhymed text (crunch, munch, caterpillars lunch) presents a toddler’s view of creatures found in the grass from lunchtime till nightfall, such as bees, ants and moles.

It Looked Like Spilt Milk by Charles Shaw
The white shape silhouetted against a blue background changes on every page. This beloved classic picture book teaches that, with a little imagination, something ordinary could become something extraordinary.

Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle
A country truck feels out of place in the speedy, noisy city until he comes to the rescue during a giant traffic jam.

The Wheels on the Bus by Annie Kubler
In this version of the classic song, the wheels go round, the wipers go swish, the driver says "Tickets Please!" and so on, all around the town.

Books to Boogie

Dance with Me by Charles R. Smith
Illustrations and simple, rhyming text encourage the reader to wiggle, shake and twirl to the beat.

Flip, Flap, Fly by Phyllis Root
Baby animals fly, swim, wiggle and slide all with the help of their mamas.

How to Be a Cat by Nikki McClure
Cut-paper illustrations and single words of text show a kitten's attempts to imitate an adult cat's mastery of such skills as stretching and stalking.

Lines That Wiggle by Candace Whitman
A variety of monsters and other creatures demonstrate some of the different things that lines can do, from curve and curl to zig-zag.

Move! by Steve Jenkins
Swing, walk, dive, swim, leap, slide, waddle—animals move in different ways.

Tip Tip Dig Dig by Emma Garcia
A parade of colorful construction vehicles doing their work means plenty of joyful noise.

Rhyming, Read Sing, Interactive, Felt Board, Repeating Phrases

Dogs Colorful Day by Emma Dodd
In this colorful story of a sloppy dog, you can count on a happy ending.

Down by the Station by Jennifer Vetter
This illustrated version of the traditional song expands and describes more vehicles, different locations and their unique sounds, from puffer-billies to racecars and rockets.
I Love My White Shoes by Eric Litwin
Pete the Cat gets into colorful adventures while out walking in his new white shoes.

I Spy in the Sea by Edward Gibbs
Illustrations and die-cut holes will absorb readers as they learn about numbers and marine animal names.

I Spy on the Farm by Edward Gibbs
Illustrations and die-cut holes will absorb readers as they learn about colors, the alphabet and farm animals.

I Spy Pets by Edward Gibbs
Invites young readers to guess which animal will be revealed using the given clues and a spy hole.

Jazz Baby by Lisa Wheeler
Baby and his family make some jazzy music.

Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons by Eric Litwin
Pete the cat loves the buttons on his shirt so much that he makes up a song about them, and even as the buttons pop off, one by one, he still finds a reason to sing.

Press Here by Herv Tullet
Allows the reader to interact with the illustrations to create imaginative images.

Rocking in My School Shoes by Eric Litwin
Pete the Cat wears his school shoes when visiting the library, the lunchroom, the playground and more while singing his special song.

Board Books: Read Sing, Act Out or Finger Play

Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes by Annie Kubler
An illustrated board book with words and music to a children's song.

If You're Happy and You Know It by Annie Kubler
The words to a familiar nursery song encourage babies and their parents to have fun together.

Ten Little Fingers by Annie Kubler
An illustrated board book with words and music to a song celebrating all the things a child can make ten fingers do, including shutting them up tight and opening them wide.

Row, Row, Row Your Boat by Annie Kubler
Illustrated version of the song.

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star by Annie Kubler
Presents the familiar nursery rhyme.
Online Storytime Resources

ALA Connect – Sensory Storytimes
connect.ala.org/node/150986
PowerPoint handouts from the “Sensory Storytime” session offered at ALA Annual in 2011.

ALSC Sensory Storytimes: Blogs (This is just a sampling – there are more!)
- Sensory Storytime Tips: www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2014/11/sensory-storytime-tips
- Disability Awareness Training: Essential Tools For Your Toolbox: www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2013/05/disability-awareness-training-essential-tools-for-your-toolbox

Sensory Storytime – Pinterest
www.pinterest.com/alsclibraries/sensory-storytime
This board is dedicated to the topic of Sensory Storytime – from program examples to related research to favorite book recommendations. This board is curated by members of ALSC, including representatives from the Library Services to Special Population Children and their Caregivers committee.

Jbrary
www.Jbrary.com
Jbrary is a library of storytime resources provided by two children’s librarians. This site includes songs, rhymes, fingerplays, and more. Some links that may be of interest:
- Building Your Storytime Confidence: jbrary.com/building-storytime-confidence
- Engaging Caregivers in Storytime: jbrary.com/engaging-caregivers
- Storytime transition: jbrary.com/transitions
- Toddler Storytime: Songs to Get the Wiggles Out: jbrary.com/toddler-storytime-songs-get-wiggles

Storytime Underground
storytimeunderground.org
Great resource for storytime information. If you have a storytime questions, use their Ask a Ninja feature and get advice from other librarians. Their Storytime University encourages professional development by awarding badges when you complete various storytime tasks.

The Library as Incubator Project
www.libraryasincubatorproject.org/?tag=book-to-boogie
Book to Boogie is a monthly series that pairs picture books with dance and movement activities for preschool storytimes.

Resource Books for Sensory Storytimes


**Purchasing Big Books: Online Resources**

Amazon  
[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)  
Search “classroom big books.”

The Book Farm  

Booksource  
[www.booksource.com](http://www.booksource.com)  
Type “big books” in search engine to view big books.

Bibz (Brodart)  
[www.bibz2.com](http://www.bibz2.com)  
Bibz has over 300 big books.

Children’s Plus, Inc.  
[www.childrensplusinc.com/customers/Login.aspx](http://www.childrensplusinc.com/customers/Login.aspx)  
Search their website to view big books.

Discount School Supply  
[wwwdiscountschoolsupply.com](http://wwwdiscountschoolsupply.com)  
Type “big books” in search engine to view big books.

Scholastic  
[shop.scholastic.com](http://shop.scholastic.com)  
To search for big books, click on “Advanced Search,” limit to “Big Books” under “Format” and click on “Search.”
Purchasing Possibilities for Sensory Storytimes
For Ideas, Amazon search: Sensory Toys

Carpet Kits ABC Phonic Block Kids Rugs: 1’ x 1’
by Carpets for Kids
sold on Amazon $121

Merrymakers Pete the Cat Plush Doll 28”
by Eric Litwin and James Dean
sold on Amazon $31.50 / $60

West Music 27” Hemmed Square Movement Scarves
by West Music
sold on Amazon $25 / $49.95

Foxnovo 12 pcs Plastic Percussion Musical
Egg Shakers for kids
sold on Amazon $10.99

Champion Sports Multi-colored Parachute
by Champion Sports
sold on Amazon $29.99 / $43.59

Gymboree Bubble Ooodles with Wand and Tray
by Gymboree
sold on Amazon $12.89

Edushape 4” Sensory Balls Set of 4, Solid
by Edushape
sold on Amazon $14.64

The Mozart Effect Music for Children
by Mozart Effect several different volumes
sold on Amazon $6.19 audio CD

Educational Insights Colors Bean Bags
By Educational Insights
Sold on Amazon $17.46 / $21.99

Puzzles
Edushape Ltd Sensory Puzzle Blocks
by Edushape
sold on Amazon $17.96

Wooden Puzzles
Geometric Shape Puzzles for Kids
Alphabet Puzzles
Transportation Puzzles
Farm Animal Puzzles
Soft Stuffed Animals or Puppets

Winsor Newton Deep Edge Cotton Artists’ Canvas
36 inch x 48 inch sold on Amazon $36.37
other sizes available
Vendors
There are a number of companies that sell materials that would be helpful for library programs, here are a few:

- Abilitations: www.schoolspecialty.com
- Achievement Products for Special Needs: www.achievement-products.com
- Beyond Play: www.beyondplay.com
- Pocket Full of Therapy: www.pfot.com

Some educational and toy supply catalogs have products that would be useful for library programs, here are a few:

- ABC Educational Supply: www.abconlinecatalog.com
- Constructive Playthings: www.constructiveplaythings.com
- Lakeshore: www.lakeshorelearning.com