



Storytime with Let's Learn KENTUCKY

Discover how to bring kindergarten readiness to life through engaging, family-centered literacy programming. Designed for children's librarians and adaptable for educators across settings, this collection of four themed Storytimes — **Count Together**, **Move Together**, **Play Together**, and **Read Together** — supports engaging, developmentally meaningful early literacy experiences. Grounded in [LetsLearnKY.org](https://www.letslearnky.org), KET's statewide kindergarten readiness initiative, these Storytimes reflect a whole-child approach to early development. Each Storytime provides a ready-to-use framework that blends books, music, movement, play, and caregiver engagement, making it easy to offer high-quality programming whether you are new to storytimes or looking to refresh your existing practice.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Each Storytime follows a familiar and flexible structure, helping children feel comfortable while supporting consistent learning opportunities. You will find:

- **Opening and closing songs** to build routine and community
- **Interactive rhymes and fingerplays** that promote language development
- **Suggested books** paired with simple extension activities
- **Music and movement opportunities** to engage the whole child
- **Mindfulness moments** such as breathing or yoga to support self-regulation
- **Early learning tips** to reinforce key concepts with caregivers

The themes are intentionally grounded in foundational early learning concepts—counting, physical movement, imaginative play, and early literacy skills. Activities encourage active participation and can be easily adapted for different group sizes, ages, and early childhood settings.

FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTATION

These Storytimes are designed as guides, not scripts. Facilitators are encouraged to adapt activities based on:

- The age and developmental level of the children
- The size and energy level of the group
- Available space, materials, and time constraints
- Their own style and comfort as a presenter

You may substitute books, simplify activities, or expand ideas. Props and visuals (such as felt pieces, puppets, scarves, or printed materials) are suggested to support engagement, but they are optional.

SUPPORTING CAREGIVERS

A key component of these Storytimes is **caregiver engagement**. Each session includes an *Early Learning Tip* that can be shared aloud or reinforced through the Raising Readers in Kentucky handouts. These tips model simple, everyday ways families can support children's learning—such as counting during daily routines, incorporating movement into play, or reading together regularly. Encouraging caregivers to participate helps extend learning beyond the library and builds confidence in supporting their child's development.

FINAL NOTES

These Storytimes are rooted in the belief that learning happens best through joyful interaction—talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing together. By using this collection, facilitators can create welcoming, engaging environments that support both children and their caregivers while fostering a lifelong love of learning.

We hope this collection provides a helpful starting point and inspires your own creativity in storytime planning and delivery.



SCAN THE QR CODE

or go to **bit.ly/LLKYStorytime**
for storytime resources!

About LetsLearnKY.org

[LetsLearnKY.org](https://letslearnky.org) is a statewide resource that supports early childhood development by providing families, educators, and community partners with accessible, research-based learning materials. The site includes:

- Printable activity sheets from the [Raising Readers in Kentucky](#) initiative
- Tips for building early literacy, math, and social-emotional skills
- Ideas for play-based learning at home
- Resources aligned with school readiness and lifelong learning

Many of the Storytime activities in this collection are drawn from or inspired by the [Raising Readers in Kentucky](#) activity sheets available on [LetsLearnKY.org](https://letslearnky.org). At the end of each Storytime, you can share or distribute related handouts to help families continue learning at home.



Storytime with Let's Learn Kentucky

Count together

INTRO

Today, we are counting together and making math a fun part of our day! Some of the stories and activities from today's storytime come from the Raising Readers in Kentucky activity sheets that can be found on [LetsLearnKY.org](https://letslearnky.org). The Raising Readers in Kentucky handout will be provided at the end of our storytime.

OPENING SONG:

"Hello Song" (to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*)

We clap and sing hello, we clap and sing hello,
With our friends at storytime, we clap and sing hello.
We wave and sing hello, we wave and sing hello,
With our friends at storytime, we wave and sing hello.
We stomp and sing hello, we stomp and sing hello,
With our friends at storytime, we stomp and sing hello.

RHYME/FINGERPLAY: "This is Big"

This is big, big, big.
This is small, small, small.
This is short, short, short.
This is tall, tall, tall.
This is fast, fast, fast.
This is slow, slow, slow.
This is yes, yes, yes.
This is no, no, no.

1ST BOOK: "Little Excavator" by Anna Dewdney

ACTIVITY:

- Let's be helpers like Little Excavator!
- Explain that you are "Farmer [insert your name]" and that you have a big problem! You've lost your chickens and you need the children to help you find them.
- Give each child a paper bag. Explain that the number on each bag indicates how many chickens that child needs to find.
- Go around the room and have children identify the numbers on each bag.
- Get hunting! Have children look around the room for their assigned number of chickens. As they search, remind them that the goal is to find only the number of chickens written on their bag.
- Chicken printables can be found in the ["Count Your Chickens"](#) lesson plan

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT: ["Five Green and Speckled Frogs"](#) by The Kiboomers

Listen to the song and follow the movement prompts. Add in scarves, shaky eggs, or puppets for extra fun!

MINDFULNESS BREAK: Animal Yoga poses and Belly Breathing

Dim the lights if you can, speak in a hushed voice and lead the children through stretching and breathing. You can learn some animal yoga poses [here](#) and learn how to lead belly breathing [here](#).

TRANSITION RHYME: “I Wiggle My Fingers”

I wiggle my fingers,
I wiggle my toes.
I wiggle my shoulders,
I wiggle my nose.
Now all my wiggles are out of me,
And I can sit (shhhhhhhh),
As quiet as can be.

LET'S LEARN KENTUCKY EARLY LEARNING TIP: Make counting a fun part of your day! Count socks as you sort them; count toys as you and your child put them away; count the cars going by your window. Understanding the meaning of numbers takes time, but the foundation is built by having regular practice with counting. Learn more tips about counting together at [LetsLearnKy.org](https://letslearnky.org)!

2ND BOOK: “Mouse Count” by Ellen Stoll Walsh

This is a great book to use props! Put a tube sock on one hand to act as the snake and small, white socks to be the mice. Count them together as the snake puts them in a jar.

SONG/RHYME: “Five Little Monkeys”

If you have felt/magnet characters for this rhyme, use them! The visuals help with number sense.

Five little monkeys swinging in a tree, *(hold up 5 fingers and wave hand)*
Teasing Mr. Alligator, can't catch me! *(make “no” finger”)*
Along came Mr. Alligator quiet as can be, *(put hands together and do swimming motion)*
And he SNAPPED *(clap hands together)* that monkey right out of that tree!

CLOSING SONG: “Goodbye Song” (tune of- Farmer in the Dell)

We clap goodbye like this, we clap goodbye like this,
With our friends at storytime, we clap goodbye like this.
We wave goodbye like this, we wave goodbye like this,
With our friends at storytime, we wave goodbye like this.
We stomp goodbye like this, we stomp goodbye like this,
With our friends at storytime, we stomp goodbye like this.





Storytime with Let's Learn Kentucky

Move together

INTRO

Today, we are moving and grooving and getting all of our wiggles out! Some of the stories and activities from today's storytime come from the Raising Readers in Kentucky activity sheets that can be found on [LetsLearnKy.org](https://letslearnky.org). The Raising Readers in Kentucky handout will be provided at the end of our storytime.

OPENING SONG:

"Hello Song" (to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*)

We clap and sing hello, we clap and sing hello,
With our friends at storytime, we clap and sing hello.
We wave and sing hello, we wave and sing hello,
With our friends at storytime, we wave and sing hello.
We stomp and sing hello, we stomp and sing hello,
With our friends at storytime, we stomp and sing hello.

RHYME/FINGERPLAY:

Put Your Hands up High (tune of- Do Your Ears Hang Low)

Put your hands up high, put your hands down low,
Put your hands in the middle and wiggle just so.
Put your elbows in front, put your elbows in back
Put your elbows to the side and quack, quack, quack!

1ST BOOK: "Clap Your Hands" by Lorinda Bryan Cauley

ACTIVITY:

- Let's move like different animals! "Which animal do you want to move like first?"
- You might hop like bunnies, stomp like dinosaurs, or even slither like snakes.
- Continue trying different animal movements.
- Try a Simon Says game and let children take turns being "Simon" and choosing the movement.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT: ["The Goldfish"](#) by Laurie Berkner

Listen to the song and follow the movement prompts. Add in scarves, shaky eggs, or puppets for extra fun!

MINDFULNESS BREAK: Animal Yoga poses and Belly Breathing

Dim the lights if you can, speak in a hushed voice and lead the children through stretching and breathing. You can learn some animal yoga poses [here](#) and learn how to lead belly breathing [here](#).

TRANSITION RHYME: “I Wiggle My Fingers”

I wiggle my fingers,
I wiggle my toes.
I wiggle my shoulders,
I wiggle my nose.
Now all my wiggles are out of me,
And I can sit (shhhhhhhh),
As quiet as can be.

LET'S LEARN KENTUCKY EARLY LEARNING TIP: Physical movement doesn't just help children's bodies grow strong; it helps their brains, too! Studies show that physical movement can help boost children's interest, motivation, reading fluency, and math skills. Learn more tips about moving together at [LetsLearnKy.org](https://letslearnky.org)!

2ND BOOK: “Head to Toe” by Eric Carle

SONG/RHYME: “Green Means Go” (roll arms while seated or stand up and move around)

Green means go- Go! Go! Go!
Yellow means slow- Sloooow, sloooooow, sloooooow.
Red means STOP!

If you have a parachute, say this rhyme while the families shake the parachute! Shake fast during green, slow during yellow, and freeze on red!

CLOSING SONG: “Goodbye Song” (tune of- Farmer in the Dell)

We clap goodbye like this, we clap goodbye like this,
With our friends at storytime, we clap goodbye like this.
We wave goodbye like this, we wave goodbye like this,
With our friends at storytime, we wave goodbye like this.
We stomp goodbye like this, we stomp goodbye like this,
With our friends at storytime, we stomp goodbye like this.





Storytime with Let's Learn Kentucky

Play together

INTRO

Today, we are learning about colors in a playful way! Some of the stories and activities from today's storytime come from the Raising Readers in Kentucky activity sheets that can be found on [LetsLearnKy.org](https://letslearnky.org). The Raising Readers in Kentucky handout will be provided at the end of our storytime.

OPENING SONG:

"Hello Song" (to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*)

We clap and sing hello, we clap and sing hello,
With our friends at storytime, we clap and sing hello.
We wave and sing hello, we wave and sing hello,
With our friends at storytime, we wave and sing hello.
We stomp and sing hello, we stomp and sing hello,
With our friends at storytime, we stomp and sing hello.

RHYME/FINGERPLAY: "Beehive"

Here is the beehive, where are the bees? (*close fist to make beehive*)

Hidden away so nobody sees. (*cover your eyes*)

Soon they come creeping out of the hive, (*close fist and shake gently*)

1, 2, 3, 4, 5! Buzzzzzzzzzz! (*Open closed fist one finger at a time while you count to five and wiggle fingers around while you buzz! Encourage caregivers to gently tickle during "buzz."*)

1ST BOOK: "Raindrops to Rainbow" by John Micklos Jr.

ACTIVITY:

- [Mix paint colors in a ziplock bag!](#) Use a ziplock bag (your choice of size) and put 2 different primary paint colors inside.
- Seal the top (add tape for extra safety) and allow the children to squish and mix the colors around to create a new color.
- Encourage them to make designs, letters, or shapes after the colors are mixed! You can even add a small piece of paper inside the bag if you want them to have an art piece at the end.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT: "[All the Fish](#)" by Caspar Babypants

Listen to the song and follow the movement prompts. Add in scarves, shaky eggs, or puppets for extra fun!

MINDFULNESS BREAK: Animal Yoga poses and Belly Breathing

Dim the lights if you can, speak in a hushed voice and lead the children through stretching and breathing. You can learn some animal yoga poses [here](#) and learn how to lead belly breathing [here](#).

TRANSITION RHYME: “I Wiggle My Fingers”

I wiggle my fingers,
I wiggle my toes.
I wiggle my shoulders,
I wiggle my nose.
Now all my wiggles are out of me,
And I can sit (shhhhhhhh),
As quiet as can be.

LET’S LEARN KENTUCKY EARLY LEARNING TIP: Play and movement are an important part of healthy brain development. Children learn at a very early age how to engage and interact with the world around them through play. Learn more tips about playing together at [LetsLearnKy.org](https://www.LetsLearnKy.org)!

2ND BOOK: “The Color Monster: A Story About Emotions” by Anna Llenas

SONG/RHYME: “Color Monster”

Use a monster puppet and pass out colors to the children to feed the monster.

Color monster, color monster- munch, munch, munch!

Which color would you like for lunch? (*puppet whispers the color in your ear and you call it out to the children. All children with that color come up to feed their color to the puppet!*)

CLOSING SONG: “Goodbye Song” (tune of- Farmer in the Dell)

We clap goodbye like this, we clap goodbye like this,
With our friends at storytime, we clap goodbye like this.
We wave goodbye like this, we wave goodbye like this,
With our friends at storytime, we wave goodbye like this.
We stomp goodbye like this, we stomp goodbye like this,
With our friends at storytime, we stomp goodbye like this.





Storytime with Let's Learn Kentucky

Read together

INTRO

Today, we are learning about animals and the sounds they make! Some of the stories and activities from today's storytime come from the Raising Readers in Kentucky activity sheets that can be found on [LetsLearnKy.org](https://letslearnky.org). The Raising Readers in Kentucky handout will be provided at the end of our storytime.

OPENING SONG:

"Hello Song" (to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*)

We clap and sing hello, we clap and sing hello,
With our friends at storytime, we clap and sing hello.
We wave and sing hello, we wave and sing hello,

With our friends at storytime, we wave and sing hello.
We stomp and sing hello, we stomp and sing hello,
With our friends at storytime, we stomp and sing hello.

RHYME/FINGERPLAY: "Open, Shut Them"

Open, shut them, open, shut them,
Give a little clap.
Open, shut them, open, shut them,
Lay them in your lap.
Creep them, creep them, creep them, creep them,
Right up to your chin.
Open wide your little mouth,

But do not put them in!
Roll them, roll them, roll them, roll them,
Roll them just like this.
Shake them, shake them, shake them, shake them,
Blow a little kiss!

1ST BOOK: "Can You Guess? Animal Sounds with The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle

ACTIVITY:

- Use a felt board, white board, or printed pictures to show examples of animals such as: cat, dog, cow, pig, lizard, bunny, or duck.
- Label the animal on a chart or list using writing materials.
- Make the animal sound while labeling the animal. You can also use signs, or gestures in addition to sounds. If you know the proper sign, you can use that, or you can use your hands and body to make gestures for the animal. You might use two fingers behind your ears to make a rabbit. Or you could fold your arms under and pretend to flap like a duck.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT: [“Animals in Action”](#) by Jack Hartman

Listen to the song and follow the movement prompts. Add in scarves, shaky eggs, or puppets for extra fun!

MINDFULNESS BREAK: Animal Yoga poses and Belly Breathing

Dim the lights if you can, speak in a hushed voice and lead the children through stretching and breathing. You can learn some animal yoga poses [here](#) and learn how to lead belly breathing [here](#).

TRANSITION RHYME: “I Wiggle My Fingers”

I wiggle my fingers,
I wiggle my toes.
I wiggle my shoulders,
I wiggle my nose.
Now all my wiggles are out of me,
And I can sit (shhhhhhhh),
As quiet as can be.

LET’S LEARN KENTUCKY EARLY LEARNING TIP: Read with your child every day, even if only for a few minutes. Reading aloud with your child, beginning in early infancy, can boost vocabulary and reading skills before the start of school and benefits them throughout their school years. Learn more tips about reading together at [LetsLearnKy.org](https://www.letslearnky.org)!

2ND BOOK: “Animal Sounds” by Christopher Silas Neal

SONG/RHYME: “I Went to Visit the Farm One Day”

(Put stuffed animals/puppets in a bag and pull them out OR teach the sign for each animal)

I went to visit the farm one day,
I saw a ____ along the way!
What do you think that ____ did say?
(Make animal sound three times)

CLOSING SONG: “Goodbye Song” (tune of- Farmer in the Dell)

We clap goodbye like this, we clap goodbye like this,
With our friends at storytime, we clap goodbye like this.
We wave goodbye like this, we wave goodbye like this,
With our friends at storytime, we wave goodbye like this.
We stomp goodbye like this, we stomp goodbye like this,
With our friends at storytime, we stomp goodbye like this.

