

# discovery time

## Sun and Moon

Parents and caregivers, extend Discovery Time into your home. Share these fingerplays and activities with young children. **The letter for this theme is S.**

### Big Yellow Moon

Big yellow moon shines so bright,  
*(Arms above head in a circle)*  
Glides across the starry night,  
*(Move from left to right)*  
Looks down at me asleep in bed,  
*(Hands together at side of face)*  
Whispers, "Good night, sleepyhead."  
*(Forefinger in front of mouth)*  
Big yellow moon, your turn is done.  
*(Arms above head move down in front of body)*  
Here comes Mr. Morning Sun.  
*(Arms move above head in a circle)*  
I wake up.  
*(Arms stretch out)*  
You go to bed.  
*(Hands together at side of face)*  
"Sleep well, Moon, you sleepyhead."  
*(Forefinger in front of mouth)*

### Sunshine

The sun makes the outside  
a warm place to play.  
*(Arms above head in circle)*  
It makes the flowers grow each day.  
*(Hold up hands and wiggle fingers)*  
The sun hides its face during the night.  
*(Cover face with hands)*  
But during the daytime it shines oh so bright.  
*(Arms above head in circle)*

### Moon Ride

Do you want to go up with me to the moon?  
*(Point to sky)*  
Let's get in our rocket ship and blast off soon!  
*(Pretend to climb in ship)*  
Faster and faster we reach to the sky.  
*(Jump and reach)*  
Isn't it fun to be able to fly?  
We're on the moon, now all take a look.  
*(Look down)*  
And gently sit down and I'll show you a book.  
*(Sit down gently)*

### Sun, Moon, and Stars

Here is the sun, it's big and bright.  
*(Arms over head to make sun)*  
And here is the moon, with its glowing light.  
*(Use hands to make a circle)*  
Here are the stars up in the sky,  
*(Point upward)*  
Twinkling brightly way up high.  
*(Flutter fingers)*



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Help your child get ready to read with these simple activities.

- **Talking:** The language of nursery rhymes and books is different from the language of conversation. Rhymes and books often have one or two unusual words, ones that children don't hear in regular conversation.
- **Singing:** Singing games and playing music in groups encourages social responsiveness. Such activities also help your child learn to feel comfortable in a group setting.
- **Reading:** Using books and stories to help children think of their own solutions to problems helps them develop problem-solving skills.
- **Writing:** If we always place an instrument or a spoon in a child's right hand, we unconsciously encourage right-handedness. By alternating hands, we give our children a chance to experience use of both hands.
- **Playing:** Scientific studies of the brain suggest that a child's natural approach to learning is through play. Songs about weather can be followed by games. Tell your child what you are doing as you pretend you are twirling an umbrella or stomping in rain puddles.

## family literacy tip

### Physical Development

An early introduction to the senses helps children make connections between parts of their bodies, the words that represent them, and the things that they do. This self-awareness is integral to the development of young children's self-confidence and self-esteem.

Diamant-Cohen, Betsy, and Saroj Nadkarni Ghoting. *The Early Literacy Kit: A Handbook and Tip Cards*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2010. Print.



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