

# discovery time

## Home at Last

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

### Here Is a House

Here is a house built up high,  
*(Stretch arms up and touch fingers together like a roof)*  
With two tall chimneys reaching the sky.  
*(Stretch arms up separately)*  
Here are the windows,  
*(Make square shape with your hands)*  
Here is the door,  
*(Pretend to knock)*  
If we look inside  
*(Cup hands around eyes)*  
We see a \_\_\_\_\_ on the floor!  
*(Invite a child to name things they might see inside a house. Insert their answers in the blank.)*

### Building a House

Building a house is lots of work,  
*(Wipe brow)*  
First, you dig up lots of dirt.  
*(Pretend to dig)*  
Then you pour a concrete floor,  
*(Touch floor)*  
And pound up boards with nails galore.  
*(Pretend to hammer)*  
Doors and windows go in fast,  
*(Draw squares in air with finger)*  
Now your house is done at last!  
*(Clasp hands together above head)*

### My House

Here are the windows.  
*(Draw a square in the air)*  
Here is the door.  
*(Draw a large rectangle)*  
Come on in, I'll show you more.  
*(Motion with hand for someone to follow)*  
Here is the kitchen,  
The living room, too.  
A bathroom, a hallway,  
*(Count on fingers)*  
And a room for you!  
*(Point)*  
An attic, a chimney,  
*(Flutter fingers to indicate smoke)*  
And a roof above.  
*(Tough fingertips over head)*  
My house is a home,  
*(Point to self)*  
'Cause it's fill with love!  
*(Hug self)*

### A House for Me

Here is a nest for Mrs. Bluebird,  
*(Cup hands together)*  
Here is a hive for Mr. Bee.  
*(Place fists together)*  
Here is a hole for Bunny Rabbit,  
*(Form circle with thumb and finger)*  
And here is a house for me.  
*(Form roof shape with fingers)*



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

- **Talking:** Talk with your child about different homes for people and animals. Introduce new words to her such as cottage, condominium, den, or burrow.
- **Singing:** Play with words and sounds and make up nonsense rhymes with songs or nursery rhymes your child knows. Encourage him to join in!
- **Reading:** Before you start reading a book with your child, talk about the title, and the pictures on the cover. Look through the pictures together and ask her what she thinks the story might be about.
- **Writing:** Encourage your child to write the alphabet by writing large letters on a page and then tracing them with your finger. Next, invite your child to trace them with his finger.
- **Playing:** Build a “cave” with your child using chairs and blankets, and pretend it is her house. Encourage dramatic play by visiting her in her new home and reading together or sharing a snack.

## family literacy tip

### **Benefits of Bedtime Stories**

After the rush to feed your kids dinner and get them ready for bed, it's finally your favorite part of the day: story time. Your kids are snuggled up to you as you turn the pages of their favorite storybooks before you tuck them in and say goodnight. Reading stories is part of the bedtime routine for many families. You've probably heard that it's good to read to your children, but the benefits of reading aloud may extend beyond what you realized. [...] Not only does reading aloud support language and literacy skills in young children, it holds benefits all the way through adolescence.

Brooks, Ashley. "The Benefits of Reading to Children: From Prenatal to Adolescence." *Rasmussen College*, 1 Apr. 2018.  
[www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/education/blog/benefits-of-reading-to-children](http://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/education/blog/benefits-of-reading-to-children).  
Accessed 25 Feb. 2019.



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