

discovery time

The Outdoors

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

Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah

(Traditional Tune)

Zip-a-dee-doo-dah, zip-a-dee-ay,
My, oh my, what a wonderful day.
Plenty of sunshine headin' my way.
Zip-a-dee-doo-dah, zip-a-dee-ay!
Mister Bluebird's on my shoulder,
It's the truth, it's actual,
Everything is satisfactual.
Zip-a-dee-doo-dah, zip-a-dee-ay,
Wonderful feeling, wonderful day!

Campfire Pokey

(Tune: "Hokey Pokey")

You put your marshmallow in,
(Put your arm in, 'holding' your marshmallow stick)
You put your marshmallow out,
(Pull your arm back, 'holding' your marshmallow stick)
You put your marshmallow in and you shake it all about.
(Put your arm in and shake it all about)
Do the campfire pokey and you turn yourself around.
(Turn yourself around in a circle)
That's what it's all about. Yum, yum!
(Rub your belly on 'Yum, yum!')

The Clouds Are Passing By

(Tune: "The Farmer in the Dell")

The clouds are passing by,
The clouds are passing by,
Heigh-ho, just watch them go,
The clouds are passing by.
The clouds are passing by,
Way up in the sky,
Sometimes fast, sometimes slow,
The clouds are passing by.

Climbing a Tree

Climbing up the tree,

(Climb in place)

Swinging on a limb.

(Pretend to swing with arms above head)

If I hear a robin,

(Cup hand over ear)

I may sing along with him!

(Whistle)

And robin, if you fly away,

(Wave)

Here's what I think I'll do:

(Point one finger up as if having an idea)

I'll wish a pair of sparrow wings

(Flap arms)

And fly away with you.

(Pretend to fly)



weber county library

discovery time

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

- **Talking:** At bedtime, talk to your child about her day. Recall things you have done together and things she did herself. Talk about the “events” of the day in chronological order.
- **Singing:** Sing with your child as you hike outdoors. Some song suggestions are on the reverse of this handout.
- **Reading:** Read words everywhere! Point out signs with words and letters of the alphabet to your child as you walk in your neighborhood. Have him read the words and letters he knows.
- **Writing:** While playing outside with your child, have her use a stick and write her name or familiar words in the dirt or sand.
- **Playing:** Help your child learn to follow directions by creating a simple outdoor treasure hunt. Have fun searching for the treasure together!

family literacy tip

Scientific Knowledge

We often want to build on our children’s curiosity but don’t always know the answers to their questions. We can often discover the answer together in books. Knowledge about the world, even in young children, is key to understanding. Combining a story and a factual book on nature or science helps expand children’s scientific knowledge. Read aloud a book like *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle and then a nonfiction book on butterflies like *Becoming Butterflies* by Anne Rockwell.

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



weber county library