



## Five Little Ducks: Do-At-Home Activities

These activities help young children learn to speak more clearly, use sentences, follow instructions, take turns, have a fun time hiding from parents, and tell their stories.

### Tell Me More

(Good for 12- to 15-month-olds)



A good way to help toddlers learn language is to tell them more when they say a word. For example, if your child is trying to say, "Da da," you might say, "Da da" and tell her more. "Do you hear Da da? Is Daddy washing the dishes?" If your toddler says, "cat," tell her more. Say, "Cat? Yes, that's the cat. What is the cat doing? The cat is playing with the string." When you emphasize the single word your toddler just said and then repeat it in a sentence, your toddler learns to speak more clearly.

### Help Me Learn Sentences

(Good for 15- to 18-month-olds)

If your child says, "Up," say, "Would you like for me to pick you up?" If your child says, "Hop," say, "Shall we hop—one, two, three?" If your child points to a shoe and says, "Dirty," say, "I see that your shoe is dirty." If your child says, "More juice," say, "Would you like some more juice?" Your child is learning how to speak in sentences!



### Where's the Duck?

(Good for 18- to 24-month-olds)

Say, "I'm going to be the Mother Duck. You be a baby duck. I'm swimming away." Go and hide just around the corner. Say, "Quack, quack, quack. Come find me Baby Duck." If your toddler doesn't find you, peek around the corner just so she can see you and say, "Quack, quack, quack," again. Take turns, letting your toddler hide and say, "Quack, quack, quack."



### Paper Cup Duck

(Good for 24- to 30-month-olds)

Get a paper cup (all-white preferably) that is big enough to fit on your child's fist. Make a duck face on the cup using markers and scraps of paper. Re-read the story and have your toddler use the puppet and pretend to be a duckling. Your child can have the duck puppet swim away each time the ducklings in the story swim away. These types of puppets are good for younger children because they are easy to use.





## Literacy and Language Development

### *What your child is doing*

- Learns to turn paper pages, two or three pages at a time
- Starts to scribble
- Getting better at following a series of instructions
- Enjoys reading with you
- Asks questions
- Talks to herself

### *What your child is saying and learning*

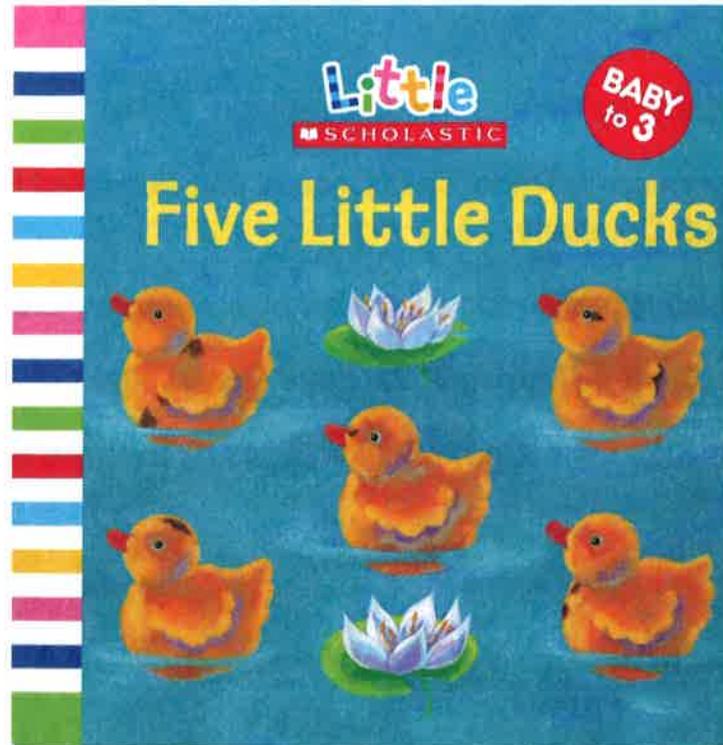
- Can say 50 or more words
- Adds 9-10 new words per day
- Uses longer sentences (three- to five-word sentences)
- Names familiar objects (at least 10)
- Reads the same book again and again
- Completes sentences and rhymes in familiar stories



### *What you can do*

- Ask "Where's the dog?" or "What is that?"
- Be willing to read the same book again and again
- Talk about the pictures as you read
- Keep using books in daily routines
- Try to read with you toddler every day. It's okay to stop if your toddler gets tired or fidgety and start again at another time

# Suggestions for Reading *Five Little Ducks* to Toddlers



Read all or parts of the book to your toddler. Here are some strategies to read and enjoy the book *Five Little Ducks*:

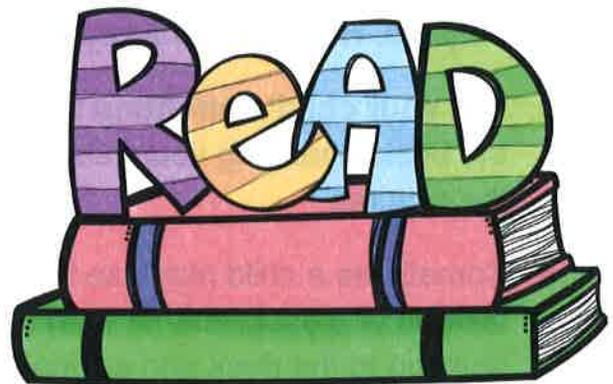
- Help your child learn new things by **pointing to pictures** and asking her what they are. Have your child count the ducks or ask her what colors the flowers are.
- **Get your child's attention** by asking about the pictures in the book, tapping on the book, changing your voice, or taking your child's hand and having him touch the pictures.
- Sometimes a child may use the wrong word, such as calling a duck a goose instead of a duck. Rather than scolding him, you can help build his language by pointing to the duck and saying, "Yes, that's a duck!" In other words, don't tell him "goose" is wrong; **tell him the right word.**

*Five Little Ducks* is best for toddlers ages 25-30 months, but can be used for younger or older children as well.

# Other Books for This Age

When adults read books with playful language, they encourage their young listeners to play with the sounds of language too. This play helps children to become aware of sounds in words.

- *Zoom, Zoom, Baby!* by Karen Katz. Little Simon, 2014
- *The Baby Goes Beep* by Rebecca O'Connell and illustrated by Ken Wilson-Max. Albert Whitman & Company, 2010
- *Jazz Baby* by Lisa Wheeler and illustrated by R. Gregory Christie. Harcourt, 2007
- *Mommies Say Shhh!* by Patricia Polacco. Philomel, 2005
- (Anytime Book: Sign Language) *My First Signs* by Michelle Anthony & Reyna Lindert. Scholastic, 2009



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# Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went swimming one day,  
(Hold up five fingers.)

Over the pond and far away.  
(Make swimming motion with hands.)

Mother duck said, "Quack, quack, quack"  
(Put hands together like a beak, open and close.)

But only four little ducks came swimming back.  
(Hold up four fingers.)

*(Continue countdown until you reach one.)*

One little duck went swimming one day,  
(Hold up one finger.)

Over the pond and far away.  
(Make swimming motion with hands.)

Mother duck said, "Quack, quack, quack"  
(Put hands together like a beak, open and close.)

And five little ducks came swimming back.  
(Make swimming motion with hands.)



