

Madison Public Library's

# Storytime Starters

## Brothers & Sisters

### Books for Toddlers:

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*Baby Says* by John Steptoe, © 1988. (GROWING, Steptoe)

*Gemma & Gus* by Olivier Dunrea, © 2015. (BOARD, Dunrea)

*Mama Cat Has Three Kittens* by Denise Fleming, © 1998. (FAVORITES, Fleming)

*My Big Brother* by Valorie Fisher, © 2002. (GROWING, Fisher)

*You Can Do It Too!* by Karen Baicker, © 2005. (GROWING, Baicker)

### Books for Preschoolers:

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*Bunny Cakes* by Rosemary Wells, © 1997. (CHARACTERS, Wells)

*The Family Book* by Todd Parr, © 2003. (GROWING, Parr)

*The New Small Person* by Lauren Child, © 2014. (FAVORITES/MITCHELL, Child)

*Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell, © 1992. (FAVORITES, Waddell)

*Peter's Chair* by Ezra Jack Keats, © 1967. (FAVORITES, Keats)

*Sheila Rae, the Brave* by Kevin Henkes, © 1987. (FAVORITES, Henkes)

*Watch Out! Big Bro's Coming!* By Jez Alborough, © 1997. (FAVORITES, Alborough)

### School-Age Extension:

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*The Three Billy Goats Gruff* by Janet Stevens, © 1987. (FOLK, Stevens)

### Fingerplays & Songs :



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[www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/kids](http://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/kids)

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**Brothers & Sisters**

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**If You Have a Brother ...**

(Tune: "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

If you have a brother,

A brother, a brother,

If you have a brother,

Please stand up!

Repeat with different family members:  
sister, mommy, daddy, cousin. Ask the  
kids who else we could include.

(From:

[http://www.abbythelibrarian.com/2015/04/pr  
eschool-storytime-family.html](http://www.abbythelibrarian.com/2015/04/pr<br/>eschool-storytime-family.html))

**Some Families**

Some families are large.

(Spread arms out wide)

Some families are small.

(Bring hands close together)

But I love my family

(Give yourself a hug)

Best of all!

(From:

[http://www.preschooleducation.com/sfamilys  
ong.shtml](http://www.preschooleducation.com/sfamilys<br/>ong.shtml))

**Three in a Family**

Here is Daddy. (thumb)

Here is Mommy. (index)

Here I am for three, (pinky)

Together we're a family,

As happy as can be! (clap)

(From:

[http://www.preschooleducation.com/sfamilys  
ong.shtml](http://www.preschooleducation.com/sfamilys<br/>ong.shtml))

**Jack and Jill**

(Traditional)

Jack and Jill went up the hill

To fetch a pail of water;

Jack fell down and broke his crown.

And Jill came tumbling after.

Up Jack got, and home did trot

As fast as he could caper;

To old Dame Dob, who patched his nob

With vinegar and brown paper.

**Thumbkin**

Where is Thumbkin?

Where is Thumbkin?



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Here I am. Here I am.  
How are you this morning?  
Very well, I thank you.  
Run and play. Run and play.

Where is Pointer?

... Tall Man  
... Ring Man  
... Pinky  
... the whole family

(From:

<http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/family-rhymes.htm>)

### A Family Fingerplay

This is a family  
(hold up one hand, fingers spread)  
Let's count them and see,  
How many there are,  
And who they can be  
(count 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)  
This is the mother  
(touch pointer finger)  
Who loves everyone  
And this is the father  
(touch big finger)

Who is lots of fun.  
This is the sister  
(touch ring finger)  
She helps and she plays,  
And this is the baby  
(touch little finger)  
He's growing each day.  
But who is this one?  
(touch thumb)  
He's out there alone,  
Why it's Jackie, the dog,  
And he's chewing a bone.  
(wiggle thumb)

(From:

<http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/family-rhymes.htm>)



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### STAFF ONLY

**Big Book:** *Over in the Meadow, En aquel prado*

**Flannel Boards:** Five Little Babies, Five Monkeys Jumping on the Bed, Over in the Meadow

**Prop Stories:** Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed, Figures for Three Billy Goats Gruff

**Movies:** Frederick (DVD, 6 min.), Noisy Nora (VHS, 6 min.), Peter's Chair (DVD, 6 min.)

**App:**

**Stamps:** Letters 'F' (for family), 'B' (for brother), 'S' (for sister)

**Craft:** Family Portraits

I have included a simple picture frame on paper. Children can draw pictures of their families. Drawing is great practice for writing! Encourage the kids to sign their artwork. Pretend writing is okay!

**Play Literacy:** Play Writing Element

Included in the kit, there is a letter template. Encourage the kids to write a letter to a family member, friend, or someone they love. Remind grown-ups that pretend writing



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is okay!

Another idea I had (but I didn't include any supplies for this) is to have the kids create a book about their families. They could draw pictures of and write about each of their family members.

**Early Learning Tip:** Tell family stories! Storytelling is a great way to bond with your child and build vocabulary!