Books of the Month

Who doesn’t need or enjoy a good laugh?! These are some of my favorite funny stories—but there are so many more out there...

**Hot Dog by Molly Coxe**—Poor dog! He is hot and everyone else is cool. Will he find a friend to help him cool down on this hot day? Ages 4-7.

**Toad on the Road by Stephen Shaskan**—Toad, trying to catch a fly, unknowingly causes many accidents and stress for drivers on the road until his mom, driving her own vehicle, approaches and helps. Ages 4-6.

More FUNNY Stories!

**Ah Ha! By Jeff Mack**—The adventures and misadventures of a frog are told using just two letters (A and H) and many fun illustrations! Ages 3-6.

**Can I Play Too? An Elephant and Piggie Book by Mo Willems**—One of many books in the Elephant & Piggie reader series—this time, a snake wants to join Elephant & Piggie in their game of catch. Just one small problem—he has no arms to catch!!! Ages 4-8.

**Duck on a Bike by David Shannon**—“One day down on the farm, duck got a wild idea...” So begins the ridiculous story of bikes, farm animals, and fun! David Shannon also wrote *No, David!* and other books about David who gets into all kinds of trouble. Ages 4-8.

**Interrupting Chicken by David Ezra Stein**—What child hasn’t from time to time put off bedtime by asking for yet another story? In this story, favorite folk tales get interrupted as chicken puts her own spin on the tales! Ages 5-8.

**My Toothbrush is Missing By Jan Thomas**—Who took dog’s toothbrush? And WHY?? Ages 4-7.

**Rhyming Dust Bunnies by Jan Thomas**—Practice rhymes and laugh out loud as these dust bunnies are continually on the lookout for their worst nightmare—the VACUUM CLEANER! Ages 4-7.

**Silly Lullaby by Sandra Boynton**—This is hands down the most entertaining and ridiculous lullaby! Sandra Boynton has created many very funny board books for babies and toddlers! Her classic *Moo Baa La la la!* is the perfect funny animals sounds book to share with very young children.

**Toot by Leslie Patricelli**—Everyone does it and when the baby in this story does it while running, he sounds like a train! Ages 1-4.
**Little Turtle**  
*Make your actions match the words!*

I have a little turtle and he lives in a box,  
He swims in the puddles,  
He climbs on the rocks,  
He snapped at a mosquito, he snapped at a flea,  
He snapped at a minnow, and he snapped at me!  
He caught the mosquito, he caught the flea,  
He caught the minnow, but he didn’t catch me!

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**Q-Tip or Finger Painting**

**What you need:**
- Q-tips, whole or cut in half  
- Paper  
- Washable paint (recipe for finger paint below) but you can use any kind of washable paint...  
- Small cups or dishes for paint

Set up the paint in separate dishes and with a Q-tip (or two) in each. Spread out paper and talk with children about what they could create—dots, letters, shapes, something they might find outside, a favorite animal, etc. Let children create and have fun!

Holding a Q-tip helps to strengthen children’s grasp, preparing them to later hold a pencil to write.

**Make Your Own Finger Paint**

- 1/2 cup flour  
- 1 cup water  
- Salt  
- Food coloring

Pour flour and water into a pot. Stir the ingredients together until it is like a smooth thick paste. Add a pinch of salt to keep it from spoiling. To reach the desired consistency, slowly add cold water to the mixture. Add food coloring.

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**Fruit Salad**

Sing to the Tune: *Are you sleeping?*

- Watermelon, watermelon,  
- Papaya, Papaya,  
- Chop up the banana, chop up the banana,  
- Fruit salad! Fruit salad!

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**Rhyming Games**

**What you need—**
- Pencil/pen, paper, your imagination!  
*optional—small box*

Write a word down—(cake, dog, cat, dig) and read the word together.

- Ask children to call out other words that rhyme with the word you wrote—  
  Cake—take, rake, make, bake, lake
- Next, write the first letter for each of the above words on small pieces of paper. Play a game where you cover the first letter of the original word with a different letter.

  Example: Put “T” on top of the “C” in cake to see how it changes the look and sound of the word.

  Do the same with other letters like “R” “M” “B” and as many other letters as you wish!

- Write down words that rhyme and mix them up in a box. Pull a word out of your box and read it together. Then pull out another word. Does this word rhyme with the first word? Yes or No? If yes, put the words together. If no, set it aside and keep going.

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To access the online training “**All Aboard for Kindergarten**,” go to the main page (address above), look for the **Kids & Teens** button in the middle, scroll down to **Parents & Caregivers**, and click on **Child Care Providers**. In the middle of this page, you will see **Free STARS Trainings**—click here. This will take you to the page with the class information.