



Fun things to make and buy

Beach Balls or Ballpit (Fun) Balls

Buy them: Amazon.com -- 100 for \$17.38

Less expensive: See if local parents or employees have any to donate.

Bubble Machine

Buy them: Walmart.com \$19.97/ea (In stores, it's a seasonal item. You can buy it online now.) Make them: Use individual wands and containers of bubble solution. Recruit several parents, though, to ensure lots of bubbles.

Egg Shakers

Buy them: Lakeshore Learning. Set of 12 is \$16.95

Make them: Plastic eggs, glued and/or taped shut, with dried beans or rice inside

Wrist Bells

Buy them: Lakeshore Learning. Set of 12 is \$29.95

Make them: Jingle bells on ribbons

Rhythm Sticks

Buy them: Lakeshore Learning. Set of 24 sticks is \$24.95

Make them: Dowel rods, sanded off and painted with non-toxic paint

Drums

Buy them: Lakeshore Learning. Set of 4 is \$39.95

Make them: Oatmeal containers, covered in heavy paper and painted. Can cover lid as well, or can flip over, string through ribbons, and hang around the neck.

Noisemakers/Tambourines

Buy them: Lakeshore Learning. Set of 4 is \$39.95

Make them: paper plates and dried beans. Staple the plates mostly shut, pour in the beans, staple the rest of the way. Decorate as desired.

Teddy Bears & Stars

Make them: use die cut or trace on flannel. For extra staff participation, have staff members decorate individual bears or stars.

Activity Scarves

Buy them: Lakeshore Learning. Set of 12 is \$16.95.

Make them: from fabric remnants, or purchase inexpensive ones from local second-hand store.

Streamers/Wrist ribbons

Buy them: Lakeshore Learning. Set of 12 is \$19.95.

Make them: Cut a length of ribbon, use clear nail polish on one end (to prevent fraying), and packing tape on the other (fold over so the tape covers the end twice). Hole punch through the tape and insert a shower curtain ring through that hole.

Parachute

Buy them: Lakeshore Learning. 12ft. is \$49.95 / 20ft. \$99.95

Make them: Only if you are feeling especially skilled and patient! Or try something like a sheet or round tablecloth made of lightweight material.

Pom-Poms

Buy them: from Oriental Trading. \$13.50/dozen

Make them: You can find directions online for making them out of newspapers, tissue paper, or wrapping ribbon.

Our Favorite Storytime Resources

Books:

Baby Rhyming Time by Linda Ernst
Storytimes for Two-Year-Olds, Third Edition by Judy Nichols
Toddle On Over by Robin Works Davis
52 Programs for Preschoolers by Diane Briggs
Storytime Around the Year by Kimberly K. Faurot
The Big Book of Stories, Songs, and Sing-Alongs by Beth Maddigan
Shake & Shout: 16 Noisy, Lively Story Programs by Rob Reid
Storytime Slam! 15 Lesson Plans by Rob Reid
The Sound of Storytime by Tiara Dixon
What'll I Do With the Baby-o? by Jane Cobb

Listserv:

Pubyac: If you aren't a member, sign up today! It's free access to the ideas, questions, and experience of over 5,000 people involved in programming for kids. www.pubyac.org

Websites:

Awesome Storytime: Archive of storytimes for 3-5 year olds. Includes craft!
www.awesomestorytime.wordpress.com

The Best Kids Book Site: books, crafts, songs and rhymes
www.thebestkidsbooksite.com

Flannel Friday on Pinterest: ideas, tips, and patterns for your storytime flannelboard activities
<http://pinterest.com/flannelfriday>

Mel's Desk: storytimes, early literacy, parent education, staff training... it's all good
<http://melissa.depperfamily.net/blog>

Storytime Katie: one librarian's journey into storytimeland
<http://storytimekatie.com>

Storytime Secrets: a children's librarian shares stories, songs, fingerplays & flannelboards for babies, toddlers & preschoolers
<http://storytimesecrets.blogspot.com>

Storytime themes from the Children's Librarians of the Harris County Public Library
www.hepl.net/cgi-bin/ebranch/story_time/browse.pl

Sunflower Storytime: laugh, sing, dance!
<http://sunflowerstorytime.com>

What happens in storytime...the world of storytime and its secrets are revealed.
<http://storytimewithmissmollie.blogspot.com>

Nancy Stewart: you can buy some good storytime music directly from the artist on this page: www.nancymusic.com

For a much more comprehensive list of resources and a *custom storytime search engine*, go to http://melissa.depperfamily.net/blog/?page_id=519

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