In addition to regular BST classes, many instructors offer signing story times at their local libraries and coffee shops. Whether it is a free event or you charge a small donation, it is a great way to spread awareness in your community! I thought it would be helpful to start a new thread focused on sharing ideas for the formats you use, as well as books, rhymes and fingerplays. Please specify the age group when responding.

Below are a few links for book ideas, as well as story time threads that I have gathered from the forums:

- Popular Toddler Story Time Books
- Rhymes and Songs
- Story Time How To
- Story Time Outlines
- Story Time Ideas
- Halloween/Fall Books
- Thanksgiving Ideas
- Christmas Ideas

I host a Signing Story Time every second Saturday of the month at our local coffee shop for ages 3 and under. Each class is 30 min long. I plan each lesson based on the key signs from one book. We begin with the Baby Signing Time
Theme song followed by a couple finger plays and bouncy rhymes to warm up. Then I introduce the book and teach key signs. We use the songs to practice each sign after I teach it. I then read the book and afterwards usually include a couple extra rhymes. I always end with "The More we Get Together" and the "Good bye" song, which is a version of the BST Theme ("All Done, All Done, Baby Signing Time.")

August Story Time: "How do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight" by Jane Yolen (ages 3 and under)
Signs indicated in all caps.

**BST Theme Song (BABY, SIGNING, TIME)**
**Warm up:** [Open Them Shut Them](#)
**Bouncy Rhyme:** [Tick Tock](#)
**Tip:** Incorporate signs into your daily routine
**Rhyme:** "This is the way..." (WASH HANDS, BRUSH TEETH, BOOK...before we go to SLEEP)
**Song:** "No more Froggies jumping on the Bed" (MOM, BED)
**Bouncy Rhyme:** [Mother and Father and Uncle John](#)

**Song:** "Daddy takes good care of me" Tune: Mary had a little lamb (DAD, LOVE)
"Daddy takes good care of me, care of me, care of me,
Daddy takes good care of me, Because he loves me so."

**Song:** "I'M Bringing home a Baby Dinosaur" Tune: Bringing home a baby bumblebee (BABY, MOM, SLEEP)
adapted by momcat: "I'm bringing home a baby dinosaur, won't my mommy hide behind the door, I'm bringing home a baby dinosaur...whoa! he's heavy! repeat with "Shhh...he's Sleepy." repeat verse again and end with silence...then, "Roar!!!"

**Song:** "Hug your Bear" Tune: Row, row, row your boat (BEAR)
"Hug, hug, hug your bear, Squeeze him very tight, hold him high and help him fly, then hug with all your might!"

**Song:** "Here's my Blanket" Tune: Are you Sleeping? (BLANKET, NIGHT)
"Here's my blanket, here's my blanket, tucked in tight, tucked in tight, I just love my blanket, I just love my blanket, Keeps me warm, every night."

**Song/Action Rhyme:** "Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear turn around" (BEAR, LIGHT, GOOD NIGHT)

**Book**

**Rhyme:** "Let's all give a hug" Tune: Nobody likes me, Everybody hates me,
guess I’ll go eat worms (I passed around the big stuffed frog during this song and asked who wanted to give him a hug. The kids loved it! We sang the rhyme a few times to give everyone a turn.)
"Everybody wants one, everybody needs one, let's all give a hug! Great big giant ones, even itty bitty ones, everybody loves a hug!"

**Song:** "Dino Pokey"
(put your big foot in, put your big claws in, stick your long neck out, put your tail in...)

**Rhyme:** "At Night I See the Twinkling Stars" (STAR, MOON, MOM, GOOD NIGHT)

**Song:** Twinkle Twinkle Little Star (STAR, YOU, UP, SKY)
**Song:** The More We Get Together (MORE, HAPPY)
**Goodbye Song** (ALL DONE, BABY, SIGNING, TIME)
**Video/Open Play:** Starry Night, BST Vol. 3

You can read about my May-July Story Times [here](#).

- 08-17-2012 02:54 AM

mlmcwilliams

Kelly,

Great outline!

I do Signing Lapsit (ages 0-3) and then Signing Story Time (ages 3-5) Saturday mornings at my local library. Both are about 20 minutes long. I have been their "intern" this summer, so I have been paid very minimally and have had to do additional hours outside of my story times (125 total hours all summer - about 8 hours a week) to complete the "internship" with them. The reason I say "intern" is because I am not whatsoever studying library science, I just asked to get paid for my story times I was already doing and this is what they offered me. I am excited to say that yesterday the librarian told me she wants to get funding for me to come in at least 20 times a year at $50/hour (one lapsit and one story time).

Thank you for compiling a list of resources from the forums!! Awesome. Even as an experienced forum user, I can still get lost trying to find the things I remember reading before.

I usually do the following:

Sing: BABY, BABY, BABY SIGNING TIME, BABY, BABY, BABY SIGNING
TIME.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME? (I ask the child. Example: Avery) I then say Did MOM bring you today? ***Super Cute! I have one little boy that recently has begun saying "ME!" when I ask him what his name is.
AVERY and MOM, BABY SIGNING TIME.

Repeat until I've sung to all the people in the room. Then THANK YOU for coming today.

For the older group:
Sing: LIBRARY, LIBRARY, LIBRARY STORY TIME
I then go around the room asking everyone's names.

I then read 2-4 books. I ALWAYS read an ABC book to both groups (it is the 2nd or 3rd book). We then sing and sign our ABCs together. I tell the parents the reason I teach ABCs is for early literacy skills and so that if I say "Use your B hand to sign BROWN" they will know what I'm talking about. The parents seem to get a kick out of this because it continues to challenge them to get all 26 letters down :).

I always try to use a theme and stick to 10-20 signs per class.

I then turn on "In the Sky" song and I discuss that we use our NICE WORDS when we blow bubbles. We can use PLEASE, SORRY (if we accidentally bump into someone), THANK YOU, MORE, and BUBBLES. Then I say we could even sign a whole sentence "PLEASE MORE BUBBLES." I blow bubbles during the entire song. During this part I ask the parents if they haven't already given me their contact information now is a great time to sign in if they'd like to receive my e-newsletter. I also tell them that I at least need them to give me their name and how many people attended with them today as the library needs a head count every time.

I have 2 coloring pages that I try to have related to the theme to hand out at the end. The library allows me to make copies there, but I print the originals at home. The regular story times at the library also do hand stamps, but I find it too difficult to stamp and hand out coloring pages so I don't hand stamp.

Below is one of the few outlines I've ever actually written up. Since I've been doing these since January 2011, I now just wing it mostly. I often do colors, animals (farm, zoo), times of day (morning, eating, bedtime), and manners as my themes. I feel kind of stuck in a rut and am excited to get new ideas from all of you :-)

• 08-17-2012 02:54 AM
mlmcwilliams
June 9, 2012 Lapsit Outline
I try to always have counting and ABCs during every lapsit (ages 0-3) and story time (ages 3-5).

Opening
Baby, baby, baby
Signing Time
Baby, baby, baby
Signing Time
____________ andMommy baby Signing Time.
(Child's Name)

Song
(Tune: Twinkle, twinkle)
I have FEELINGS, you do too
Let's all sing about a few.
I am HAPPY, I am SAD,
I get SCARED, I get MAD.
I am PROUD of being me.
That's a FEELING too, you see.
I have FEELINGS, you do too.
We just sang about a few.
I have FEELINGS, you do too
THANKS for singing, now we're THROUGH (finished)

Book
Happy Hippo, Angry Duck by Sandra Boynton

Key Feelings Vocabulary to be signed

Terrific
Okay
Happy
Angry
Sad
Grumpy
Excited
Worried
Contented (Satisfied)
Amused (Funny)
Confused
Lost
Like
Bonus Signs Animals
Hippo
Duck
Chicken
Moose
Dog
Rabbit
Frog
Pig
Cow

Poem - COUNTING
(From http://www.childfun.com/index.php/acer-e.html?start=4)
When angry feelings start to mount,
That's when I take some time to count:
One....Two.....Three....Four...Five.
Counting helps me settle down,
Counting helps to fade my frown:
Six...Seven...Eight...Nine...Ten.

Book - Because Summer Reading Program theme is "Dream Big -Read"
Sweet Dreams, Little Bunny! by Maribeth Boelts

Clean up
Snack
Cracker
Brush teeth
Flush
Bath
Towel
Bear
One
Two
Up
Book
Dreams
Good night
**Song**
(Tune: Hokey Pokey)
You put your SAD face in,
You put your SAD face out,
You put your SAD face in,
And you shake it all about.
You show me what your FEELING,
And you turn yourself about.
That's what it's all about.
HAPPY, CRYING, HURT, GRUMPY, SURPRISED, SILLY, SCARED, EXCITED, SICK, LOVING, LAUGHING

**Book - ABCs**
B is for Bear by Rodger Priddy

Apple
Bear
Car
Duck
Elephant
Flower
Goldfish
Hat
Ink/Blue
Juice
Kittens
Leaf
Mouth
Nose
Owl
Pigglets
Quiet
Robot
Strawberry
Train
Umbrella
Vegetables
Wet/Bath
Closing

ALL DONE, ALL DONE BABY SIGNING TIME.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, BABY SIGNING TIME.

BYE-BYE, BYE-BYE BABY SIGNING TIME.

• 08-17-2012 06:30 PM

momcatkelly

Wow, Megan! Thank you for sharing your great ideas and outline. Love the "Feelings" song (tune: Twinkle Twinkle). I also like your intro using the kids names. I've heard other instructors talk about doing this and have seen it in the manual, but I like how you describe interacting with them and asking the children who brought them here today. Would you mind me asking how many you usually have in a class? I think it might be too hard to ask everyone their names at my story time, but I might try it with the smaller classes at the house. Thanks again for posting! Looking forward to hearing what others have to share as well! :)

• 08-17-2012 07:48 PM

mlmcwilliams

I usually sing the name part of the song 5-12 times as I usually have 10-25 people per 20 minute class. I always sing 2 names per time. Brother/Sister, Mom/Child, or Kid/Next Kid even if they are unrelated just to get through the song faster. I
also some times say "It sounds like your name starts with an "A" here is how you sign A." For more exposure to the ABCs in class and to make the signing letters more relevant and excited for the kids.

I am also excited to hear how their other Story Times have been going. Does anyone do crafts regularly as part of their Story Times?

All times are GMT. The time now is 06:57 PM.
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