

# *Family Storytime*

Twenty-Four  
Creative Programs  
for All Ages

*Rob Reid*

American Library Association  
Chicago and London, 1999

From **Family Storytime: 24 Creative Programs for All Ages**,  
by Rob Reid. Copyright © 1999 American Library Association.  
All rights reserved. Permission granted to reproduce for nonprofit,  
educational purposes.

# Bubbly Bubble Bathtime

---

## Program at a Glance

---

MUSICAL ACTIVITY	“Rubber Duckie” from <i>Splish Splash: Bath Time Fun</i> by Sesame Street
MUSIC	“I’m a Dirty Kid” from <i>Hello Rachel! Hello Children!</i> by Rachel Buchman
PICTURE BOOK	<i>Mrs. Piggie-Wiggle’s Won’t-Take-a-Bath-Cure</i> by Betty MacDonald
POEM	“After a Bath” from <i>Always Wondering: Favorite Poems of Aileen Fisher</i> by Aileen Fisher
PICTURE BOOK	<i>King Bidgood’s in the Bathtub</i> by Audrey Wood
PICTURE BOOK	<i>Five Minute’s Peace</i> by Jill Murphy
POEM	“Naughty Soap Song” by Dorothy Aldis from <i>Read-Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young</i> edited by Jack Prelutsky
PICTURE BOOK	<i>Dad’s Car Wash</i> by Harry A. Sutherland
MUSICAL ACTIVITY	“Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes” adapted by Joanie Bartels from <i>Bathtime Magic</i>
PICTURE BOOK	<i>Is It Time?</i> by Marilyn Janovitz
MUSIC	“Here We Go Loop ’D Loo” from <i>We All Live Together, Vol. 1</i> , by Greg and Steve

---

## Preparation and Presentation

Play the song “Rubber Duckie” as the audience enters the story area. It can be found on several Sesame Street recordings including *Splish Splash: Bath Time Fun* and *Jim Hensen: A Sesame Street Celebration*. Show up in a robe with slippers and a shower cap. Carry a long-handled scrub brush, wash rag, towel, and of course, a rubber ducky. If you have access to a plastic infant bathtub, set it out and fill it with the picture books you’ll be reading.



### “I’m a Dirty Kid”

Rachel Buchman

Greet your audience, tell them to repeat everything they hear, and without saying another word, play the recording of “I’m a Dirty Kid.” This call-and-response song is deceptively simple. Many parents report back to us that the kids won’t stop singing it.

Have the audience echo each line. This can also be done as a chant.



### *Mrs. Piggle Wiggle’s Won’t-Take-a-Bath-Cure*

Betty MacDonald

Patsy Brown refuses to take a bath. Wise Mrs. Piggle Wiggle convinces Patsy’s parents to let Patsy stop taking baths. Patsy eventually gets so dirty that radishes grow on her skin. This story can also be found in the MacDonald chapter book *Mrs. Piggle Wiggle*.



### “After a Bath”

Aileen Fisher

Have the audience stand and act out the poem’s motions, such as drying fingers and toes and shaking like a dog.



### ***King Bidgood's in the Bathtub***

Audrey Wood

A king refuses to get out of the bathtub. Ask the parents if they ever had that problem with their kids. This excellent story with gorgeous, detailed illustrations is also performed as a mini-opera in filmstrip, video, and sound cassette formats.



### ***Five Minute's Peace***

Jill Murphy

Mother Elephant pleads with her three young children for just five minutes of peace and solitude. She relaxes in the tub but is soon joined by all three kids before her five minutes are up.



### **“Naughty Soap Song”**

Dorothy Aldis

A bar of soap gets thinner and thinner in the bathtub. Tape a copy of the poem (unless you plan to memorize it) on the bottom of an infant-size tub. Place a full bar of soap and hide a second tiny sliver of a bar of soap in the tub. As you read the poem, toss the large bar of soap in the air as if it was very slippery. Drop it in the tub and pull out the sliver of soap for the last line: “my soap’s growing thinner each day.”



### ***Dad's Car Wash***

Harry Sutherland

A boy and his dad pretend that the bathtub is a car wash and the boy is a car. Instruct the parents to act out the bathing motions on their kids as you read about washing the hub caps (knees), the turn signals (ears), and the hood ornament (nose).



### **“Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes”**

traditional, adapted by Joanie Bartels

Bartels has children wash their heads, shoulders, knees, and toes.

Have everyone stand for a bathtime version of “Heads, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes.” Instead of simply pointing to these body parts, pretend to scrub them with an imaginary washcloth.

Wash your head and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and  
toes,  
Head and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes, and  
Eyes and ears and mouth and nose,  
Head and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes.

Nancy Cassidy, on her recording *Kids Songs 2*, adds lines for “Ankles, elbows, feet and seat” with “Hair and hips and chins and cheeks” comprising the middle section. Parents and children alike will be hard pressed to keep up, but they’ll all be giggling. Challenge the older kids to lead the way.



### ***Is It Time?***

Marilyn Janovitz

Read the book as a call-and-response chant. The story includes verses about toweling off, brushing “fangs” (the young protagonist is a wolf), getting into bed, howling, and getting a good night kiss—all of which can be acted out by the audience. Add your own line after the book is done: “Is it time to check out books? Yes, it’s time to check out books! But first, we have one last song to sing.”



### **“Here We Go Loop ’D Loo”**

traditional

Not many folks know that this popular song is actually about taking a Saturday night bath. “You put your right hand in” to test the water to see if it’s too hot.

Here we go loop de loo,  
Here we go loop de la,  
Here we go loop de loo,  
All on a Saturday night.

You put your right hand in,  
You put your right hand out,  
You give your right hand a shake, shake, shake,  
And turn yourself about.

The song can be found on several recordings. My favorite versions include *We All Live Together, Vol. 1*, by Greg and Steve and *Shake It to the One That You Love the Best: Play Songs and Lullabies from Black Musical Traditions* by Cheryl Warren Mattox.

## *Mix and Match*

### **ADDITIONAL PICTURE BOOKS**

Kudrna, C. Imbrior. *To Bathe a Boa*.

Even snakes need baths. There are wonderful illustrations of the boa house (a long, curvy version of a dog house) and of the boa hiding behind glasses with a fake nose.

Munsch, Robert. *Mud Puddle*.

Every time a girl walks outside, a mud puddle jumps on her head. Munsch adds sound effects when her mother scrubs out her ears, eyes, and belly button. Add your own scrubbing “squeaks.”

Pryor, Ainslie. *The Baby Blue Cat and the Dirty Dog Brothers*.

The cats and dogs play in a mud puddle, get cleaned up, receive snacks, then hop back in the mud puddle to eat the snacks.

Watanabe, Shigeo. *I Can Take a Bath*.

Little Bear joins his Daddy in the tub. The adults and children in the audience can take turns “scrubbing” each other’s backs.

Zion, Gene. *Harry the Dirty Dog*.

Here’s the classic story of a white dog with black spots who gets so dirty that his family doesn’t recognize him.

### ADDITIONAL POEMS

- “Bertie Bertie” by Eve Merriam from *Blackberry Ink*.  
“Clean Gene” by Shel Silverstein from *Falling Up*.  
“Dainty Dottie Dee” by Jack Prelutsky from *The New Kid on the Block*.  
“The Muddy Puddle” by Dennis Lee from *Garbage Delight*.  
“The Way They Scrub” by A. B. Ross from *Read Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young*, edited by Jack Prelutsky.  
“Trips” by Nikki Giovanni from *Spin a Soft Black Song*.

### ADDITIONAL SONGS AND MUSICAL ACTIVITIES

- “Bathtime” by Raffi from *Everything Grows*.  
“I Love Mud” by Rick Charette from *Alligator in the Elevator*.  
“Rubber Blubber Whale” by John McCutcheon from *How-jadoo*.  
“Singing in the Tub” by The Chenille Sisters on *1-2-3 for Kids*.  
“There’s a Hippo in My Tub” by Joanie Bartels from *Bathtime Magic*.

### ADDITIONAL FINGERPLAYS AND MOVEMENT ACTIVITIES

#### “Bubble Bath”

Rob Reid

Bubbly, bubbly bubble bath,  
    *(Wiggle all ten fingers)*  
Filled to the top,  
    *(Raise fingers overhead)*  
Listen to the bubbly bubbles,  
    *(Cup hand to ear)*  
Pop! Pop! Pop!  
    *(Clap three times)*

## “The Old Woman”

traditional

The old woman stands at the tub, tub, tub,

*(Hold up pointer finger)*

The dirty clothes to rub, rub, rub.

*(Rub hands together)*

But when they are clean and fit to be seen,

*(Hold up imaginary clothes)*

She'll dress like a lady and dance on the green.

*(“Dance” pointer finger)*

### VIDEOS

*Harry the Dirty Dog.* Weston Woods. (9 min.)

*King Bidgood's in the Bathtub.* Random House. (8 min.)

*Let's Give Kitty a Bath.* Phoenix Films. (12 min.)

*The Piggy in the Puddle.* Reading Rainbow. (5 min.)



StoryTime for Children. Book and toy videos for kids ages 3 - 10 delivered by a Certified Teacher! Ms. Becky videos are created for family and classroom fun; children learn colors, numbers, letters, spelling, sorting, shapes and more! If you find our videos to be fun and entertaining, we welcome you to subscribe to our StoryTimewithMsBecky YouTube Channel so you can join us on our wondrous, magical reading adventures!