

5 Sing a Song

There are many familiar childhood tunes about fish or the ocean.

- One well-known folk song goes:

*You get a line, I'll get a pole, honey,
You get a line, I'll get a pole, babe.
You get a line, I'll get a pole,
We'll go down to the fishing hole, honey, baby, mine.*

If you don't know the tune, don't worry, just make up one of your own.

- You can also sing these words to the old standby "Row, Row, Row Your Boat":

*Swim, swim, swim, little fish,
Swim quickly down the stream.
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Life is but a dream.*

- Your child may already be familiar with the popular Raffi song "Baby Beluga," which is taught in many preschools, daycare centers, and music classes. If you don't know it, here are the words, which you can sing to any simple tune:

*Baby beluga in the deep blue sea,
Swim so wild and you swim so free.
Heaven above and the sea below,
And a little white whale on the go.**

While you sing the song, each of you can "swim" one of the fish through the air.



Let's Make™ Fishy Friends!

A LETTER FROM THE EDITORS...

What makes PARENTING's craft kits special? Our Preschool Projects at Home encourage creativity, promote self-esteem, and help kids develop fine motor skills—but most of all, they're safe and fun!

These kits, designed for ages 3 and up, have been tested by developmental experts as well as by children and parents to ensure they'll both enrich and entertain. All the materials you'll need are included.

There's no one "right way" to do each project, so your child can feel free to add his or her own personal touches. And once the project is done, your child will enjoy playing with it for hours to come. On the following pages, we offer some unique activity ideas.

PARENTING's Preschool Projects at Home also call for your involvement, which means you get to have hands-on fun along with your child—and you don't have to be an artist or a teacher to create these appealing treasures.

Enjoy!

The Editors of PARENTING

1 Fishy Facts

- Fish live in ponds, rivers, lakes, streams, and oceans.
- Fish swim in large groups called schools.
- There are more than 20,000 different types of fish.
- Fish have fins, tails, and scales.

2 Pretend Time

Fish, Little Fish, What Do You Wish?

- Tuck one fish out of sight and hold the other by the tail inside the tank so you can move it back and forth.
- Encourage your child to look into the tank and talk to his fish, using this simple rhyming question: “Fish, little fish, what do you wish?” (You may need to ask it yourself the first couple of times, but chances are he’ll soon join in.)
- Pretend you’re the fish and use a fishy-sounding voice (high and squeaky, perhaps, or low and gurgly) to give simple answers: “Food!” “A toy!” “A kiss!”
- Help your child respond to each request with the appropriate action, such as putting a pinch of imaginary food into the tank, tossing in a small toy, or kissing the fish.
- Finally, have the fish say, “A friend!” and toss in the second fish. You might end with the two fish dancing around together.

3 Play a Game

Where Does the Fish Live?

- Line up your handmade tank alongside three or four other objects with openings large enough to accommodate one of the stuffed fish—such as a shoe, a saucepan, a coffee mug, and a hat.
- Hold the fish up in the air above the row of objects and ask your child: “Where does the fish live?”
- Suggest each possibility in turn, placing the fish in the potential home: “In a shoe?” “In a pan?” “In a mug?” “In a hat?” The sillier this gets, the more your child will love it.
- Encourage your child to answer, “No, no, no!” until you finally ask, “In a fish tank?” and he gets to triumphantly answer, “Yes!”

4 Go on an Outing

One way to learn more about fish is to visit an aquarium or pet store, where you and your child can spend time together exploring watery worlds.

Discussion Suggestions:

- Ask your child to choose her favorite fish and tell you why she likes that particular one.
- Explain that pet fish live in tanks and ask her how she might care for one at home.
- Compare and contrast different fish: “That one is bigger, but that one is much more colorful. And that one has teeth!”
- Bring your handmade tank and fish with you and hold the fish up next to their live counterparts. Then ask your child: “What’s different about your fish and the fish in these tanks?”