North Mankato Taylor Library Storytime

W is for Wild West

Wild West Stories We Shared:
Let’s Sing a Lullaby with the Brave Cowboy by Jan Thomas
Every Cowgirl Needs a Horse by Rebecca Janni
B is for Buckaroo by Louise Doak Whitney
Cowboy Small by Lois Lenski

More Wild West Books To Share:
Tornado Slim and the Magic Cowboy Hat by Bryan Langdo
Cowboy and Octopus by Jon Scieszka
A Cowboy Named Ernestine by Nicole Rubel
I Want to be a Cowgirl by Jeanne Willis
Hannah Mae O’Hannigan’s Wild West Show by Lisa Ernst Campbell
Every Girl Needs Dancing Boots by Rebecca Janni
Home on the Range by Deborah Hopkinson
Cowboys: Voices in the Western Wind by David Harrison
Cowboys and Cowgirls Yippee-Yay! By Gail Gibbons
The Dirty Cowboy by Amy Timberlake
Apples to Oregon by Deborah Hopkinson
Meanwhile Back at the Ranch by Trinka Hakes Noble

Early Literacy Activities:
- Talk about the words cowboy and cowgirl-sound out the different parts of the word cow-boy-say them separately and then together again, first slowly and then faster. Clap once for each syllable of the word, do the same thing with words like rancher, lasso, horses.
- Help your child think of words that rhyme with bow like bow, sow, now, how, plow-make up silly rhymes with these words. Try rhyming boy and girl too!
- Help your child think of words that start with the C-kuh-sound (cat, cake, candy, cookie, camera, calendar, cup)
- Help your child think of other types animals that you might find on a ranch (coyote, rattlesnake, bison, steer). Learning these unusual names is a great way to expand your child’s vocabulary!
- Very young children are fascinated by books featuring animals. Remember, it isn’t just the book that builds early literacy skills; it’s how the book is used. Be enthusiastic and get your child involved when choosing and reading books together. The library has a wide variety of animal books. You will both enjoy this special time you share together!
Songs and Fingerplays to Share:

**The Little Cow** (count on fingers)
This little cow eats grass
This little cow eats hay
This little cow looks over the hedge
This little cow runs away
And this BIG cow does nothing at all (touch thumb)
But lie down in the fields all day! (lay thumb down)

**The Farmer**
Here is the farmer
What does he do?
He feeds the cows
And milks them too
Chickens and pigs
Horses and sheep
He puts in the barn
So they can sleep

**Five Spotted Cows** (count on fingers)
Five spotted cows standing in a line.
The first one said, "I'm feeling fine!"
The second one said, "How do you do?"
The third one said, "Moo! Moo! Moo!"
The fourth cow said, "I'm grazing in this grass."
The fifth cow said, "I'm getting full at last."
The cows stood together and said, "We are through."
So let's take a bow and all say MOOOOOO!

**Western Animals Song**
The coyotes on the prairie go.
Howl, howl, howl.
Howl, howl, howl.
Howl, howl, howl.
The coyotes on the prairie go,
Howl, howl, howl.
All day long.

The rattlesnakes on the prairie go,
Rattle, rattle, rattle, é é .

The cows on the prairie go,
Moo, moo, moo, é é .

The horses on the prairie go,
Neigh, neigh, neigh, é é .

The jackrabbits on the prairie go,
Jump, jump, jump, é ...
Cow
Here is the barn  (form roof with fingertips together)
So big you see
In walk the cows
One, two, three  (hold up 3 fingers one at a time)
Soon there'll be milk (pretend to drink from a glass)
For you and me  (point to others and self)

I’m a Little Cowboy  (To the tune of I’m a Little Teapot)  
I’m a little cowboy
Here is my hat  (touch head)
Here are my spurs  (touch heels)
And here are my chaps  (touch legs)
As soon as I get up, (stretch up high)
I work all day.
I get on my horse, (swing leg over pretend saddle)
And ride away.  (gallop around the room)

Five Little Cowboys  (count on fingers)
This little cowboy rode into town.
This little cowboy stayed home.
This little cowboy ate some beans.
This little cowboy had none.
This little cowboy yelled ìYeehaw!î
All the way home

Five Little Ponies  (count on fingers)
Five little ponies, tan, brown, and gray.
Down to the meadow, they went to play.
The first one said, ìLet’s roll in this field.î
The second one said, ìLet’s kick up our heels!î
The third one said, ìLet’s run, run, run!î
The fourth one said, ìThat sounds like fun!î
The fifth pony said, ìI’d like some hay.î
So the five little ponies galloped away.
  (run fingers away behind you back)

**Ideas in this handout were borrowed from The Perry Public Library website:
http://www.perrypubliclibrary.org/Kids/Programs/storytime_themes.htm
The Alphabet Song
a-b-c-d-e-f-g
h-i-j-k-Imnop
q-r-s
t-u-v
w-x
y and z
Now I know my 'ABCs'
Next time won't you sing with me.
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