**Fingerplays**

**Five Little Fishes**
Five little fishes swimming in the sea *(make swimming motions with your hands)*
The first one said, “I’m as blue as can be” *(make a sad face)*
The second one said, “Let’s dive down deep” *(make a diving motion with hands together)*
The third one said, “You don’t have to weep” *(make a crying motion with hands on face)*
The fourth one said, “Be happy and free” *(make a happy face)*
The fifth one said, “Be friends with me” *(point to baby and yourself)*
And friends they were and friends they will stay
As the five little fishes swam away *(make swimming motions with your hands)*

**Fish**
Pretty little goldfish *(make a fish wiggle motion with one hand)*
Never can talk *(point to your mouth)*
All it does is wiggle *(repeat fish wiggle motion with one hand)*
When it tries to walk *(walk fingers on your lap)*

**Practice Blowing Kisses**
The Pout-Pout Fish turns his frown upside down when he receives a great big smoochy kiss. Practice blowing and giving kisses with Baby after reading these board books.

*Peekaboo Kisses* by Barney Saltzberg (Harcourt, 2002)
*Counting Kisses* by Karen Katz (McElderry Books, 2001)
*Hugs and Kisses (Baby Faces)* by Roberta Grogel Intrater (Cartwheel/Scholastic, 2002)
Who’s There in the Mirror?
Babies love to look at themselves in the mirror and smile. Have a play mirror available and read these peekaboo books with Baby. Hold a small blanket in front of Baby’s face and play peekaboo with his image in the mirror.

Read together these peekaboo books:
Baby Love Peekaboo!: touch-and-feel and lift-the-flap by Dawn Sirett (DK, 2008)
Peekaboo Bedtime by Rachel Isadora (G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 2008)
Peekaboo Baby by Margaret Miller (Little Simon, 2001)

Blow Bubbles!
Babies are enchanted with soap bubbles made with a wand and toy bubble jar. Let Baby watch you make bubble patterns in the air.
Read together Bubbles, Bubbles by Kathi Appelt (HarperFestival, 2001)

More Fish Board Books to enjoy with Baby
Hooray For Fish! By Lucy Cousins (Candlewick, 2008)
Amazing Baby: Five Fish! (Silver Dolphin, 2003)
TODDLERS (18 - 36 months)

Toddlers will begin to recognize the pattern and rhythm of the refrain as you read the rhyming story.

**Talk About The Pout-Pout Fish**
Point out the various different fish and their colors.
Ask your toddler if Mr. Fish looks happy or sad.
How many friends does Mr. Fish have? Count as many fish as you can.

**Talk About Feelings**
Ask your toddler to point out where Mr. Fish is sad.
What makes Mr. Fish happy?

**Dramatic Play**
Ask your toddler to make a happy face. Talk about smiles.
Ask your toddler to make a sad face. Talk about frowns and pouts.

**Act out together: Stand Up Tall**
Stand up tall
Hands in the air.
Now sit down
In your chair.
Clap your hands
And make a frown.
Smile and smile.
Hop like a clown.

**Sing together: If You’re Happy and You Know It**
If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands
If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands
If you’re happy and you know it and you really want to show it
If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands
Repeat with following motions: stamp your feet, pat your head, wiggle your nose, etc.
Read together these books about faces and feelings
Lots of Feelings by Shelley Rotner (Millbrook Press, 2003)
The Pigeon Has Feelings Too! by Mo Willems (Hyperion, 2005)

Read together these books about friendship
Do You Want To Be My Friend? by Eric Carle (HarperFestival, 1995)
Gossie & Gertie by Olivier Dunrea (Houghton Mifflin, 2002)

Fishy Numbers
Count as many fish as you can in the story of The Pout-Pout Fish.
Read together these fishy counting books:
Fish. Swish! Splash. Dash! Counting Round and Round by Suse MacDonald (Little Simon, 2007)
Fish Eyes: A Book You Can Count On by Lois Ehlert (Harcourt, 1990)

Fishy Shapes
Fish come in many different sizes and shapes.

Read together this story about the different shapes in the sea:
Sea Shapes by Suse Macdonald (Harcourt, 1994)
Cut flannel pattern fish in a variety of shapes as outlined in Sea Shapes
Have toddlers place flannel characters on a flannel board to make a sea scene

Fishy Collages
Cut a variety of shape patterns from colored paper. Make patterned fish or collage fish.
Fishy Fingerplays

**Here is the Sea**
Here is the sea, the wavy sea (make a wave motion with one hand)
Here is my boat and here is me (open hands together at wrists, point to self)
All of the fishes down below (point down)
Wiggle their tails and away they go (put hands together and make swimming motion)

**Fish in the Sea** *(to the Wheels on the Bus)*
The fish in the sea go swim, swim, swim
swim, swim, swim, swim, swim
The fish in the sea go swim, swim, swim
All through the Day
The lobsters in the sea go pinch, pinch, pinch
pinch, pinch, pinch, pinch, pinch
The lobsters in the sea go pinch, pinch, pinch
All through the Day
The octopus in the sea go wiggle, wiggle, wiggle
wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle
The octopus in the sea go wiggle, wiggle, wiggle
All through the Day
The crabs in the sea go click, click, click
click, click, click, click, click
The crabs in the sea go click, click, click
All through the Day

**More Fish Stories to Enjoy with Toddlers**
*Fishes* by Brian Wildsmith (Oxford U.P, 1968)
*Blue Sea* by Robert Kalan (Greenwillow, 1979)
*Ten Little Fish* by Audrey Wood (Blue Sky Press, 2004)
PRESCHOOLERS (3 - 5 years)

At this stage preschoolers will love to chime in with the two refrains as you read The Pout-Pout Fish aloud. Incorporating dramatic play with the reciting of the patterned repeated phrases allows preschoolers the opportunity to “read” the story with you.

**Talk About The Pout-Pout Fish**
There are many words to express our feelings. Talk about opposite feelings and words to express them.

Unhappy, Sad, Frowns, Pouts
Happy, Glad, Smiles, Grins

How does Mr. Fish feel in the story?
Why does he turn his frown upside down?

**Connect with the story:**
Ask children what makes them feel happy or sad?

**Sing together: Feelings** (tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star)
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.
More Stories about Feelings for Preschoolers
When Sophie Gets Angry — Really, Really Angry by Molly Bang (Blue Sky Press, 1999)
One Lonely Sea Horse by Saxton Freymann (Scholastic, 2000)
How Are You Feeling? By Saxton Freymann (Scholastic, 1999)
The Pigeon Has Feelings Too! by Mo Willems (Hyperion, 2005)

Counting Friends
Mr. Fish has many friends in the sea who provide reasons to be happy.
Have children make a list of all his ocean friends and count them up.
(Clam, Jellyfish, Squid, Octopus, Silver Shimmer)

Read together and count away:
One Lonely Sea Horse by Saxton Freymann (Scholastic, 2000)
Ocean Parade: A Counting Book by Patricia MacCarthy (Dial, 1990)

Make a Fishy Counting Book
Create a counting book using fish as the main object.
Work from numbers 1 - 10 with one number per page.
Have children illustrate the book.
Counting Fish Fingerplays

Ten Little Fishes (hold up ten fingers, make swimming motions, wiggle each finger in turn)
  Ten little fishes were swimming in a school
  This one said, “Let’s swim where it’s cool”
  This one said, “It’s a very warm day”
  This one said, “Come on, let’s play”
  This one said, “I’m as hungry as can be”
  This one said, “There’s a worm for me”
  This one said, “Wait, we’d better take a look”
  This one said, “Yes, it’s on a hook”
  This one said, “Can’t we get it anyway?”
  This one said, “Perhaps we may”
  This one, so very brave, grabbed a bite and swam away

Five Little Sea Creatures
  Five little sea creatures on the ocean floor;
  The lobster walked away and now there are four.
  Four little sea creatures living in the sea;
  The octopus crept away and now there are three.
  Three little sea creatures wondering what to do;
  “Good-bye,” said the starfish and now there are two.
  Two little sea creatures not having much fun;
  Off swam the sea horse and now there is one.
  One little hermit crab, sad and all alone,
  Back came the starfish,
  Back came the sea horse,
  Back came the octopus,
  Back came the lobster,
  Then all five went home.
**Rhyming Time with Familiar Fingerplays**

Make a print out of the “Ten Little Fishes” fingerplay.
Read it aloud with the child several times, emphasizing the rhyming words.
In a subsequent reading, hesitate with each rhyming word to allow the child to predict and say the rhyming word before you.
You may also point to the words as you read together.
Repeat with any other easy rhyming fingerplay or poem to encourage predicting and rhyming sound recognition.

**Dramatic Play with The Pout-Pout Fish**

**Materials Needed:** Paper Plates, Fish template, Glue sticks

Use the fish template to create “happy or pout-pout fish” cut-outs. Children may glue the fish cut-out to a paper plate. As you read the story aloud, allow children to say the refrain with you while holding their “happy or pout-pout fish” plate in front of them. When Mr. Fish is pouting have children keep the plate in a frown position. When Mr. Fish is kissed and produces a smile, have children turn their plate upside down to reveal a smiling fish.

**Create a classroom aquarium**

*(This can also be used as a kick-off activity for the Michigan Reads Program)*

**Materials Needed:** Fish template, Construction paper; glitter glue sticks, fishing line, markers, sticker dots, crayons

Have children decorate the fish cut-outs made from colored construction paper with glitter glue sticks, markers, sticker dots, etc. Punch a hole at the top of the head and hang the fish with fishing line from the ceiling in various lengths and watch a colorful sea scene develop!

**More Fish Stories to Enjoy with Preschoolers**

*Bored! Bored! Bored!* by Jill Newton (Bloomsbury, 2002)
*Fidgety Fish* by Ruth Galloway (Tiger Tales, 2001)
*Splash!* by Ann Jonas (Greenwillow, 1995)
*Swimmy* by Leo Lionni (Knopf, 1963)
At this stage, children who can read from a limited word bank or more fluently will enjoy repetitious readings of The Pout-Pout Fish. After multiple readings over several days, have children chant the now familiar refrains with you. As your reread the story together, graduate to some of the other verses and allow children to predict from the context what some of the ending rhyme words will be.

**Talk About The Pout-Pout Fish**
Themes of feelings and friendship

Ask your child —

What makes Mr. Fish unhappy?
What do the other fish think about Mr. Fish?
Why do the other fish want Mr. Fish to be happy?
Why is it good to have friends?
How do you feel when you play with your friends?

**Emotions and words**
Talk about words and their meanings

Pout, frown, sulk, scowl, grimace, growl, glum, mope, dreary, weary, etc.

Surprise, astounded, aghast

Introduce other words that signal “happy” - grin, smile, cheer, laugh, etc.
Sorting words: Make a variety of word cards and sort them into “happy” or “sad” piles.

**How do illustrations show themes of friendship and feelings?**

Ask your child —

What does Mr. Fish look like in each picture? Is he sad, surprised, etc.?
How do the pictures let you know how all the fish are feeling or thinking?
What emotion does the color blue represent?