



Have you had a chicken storytime? There are fun offerings from baby to young adult! Your imagination is the only limit. The first three titles, *First the Egg* by Laura Vaccaro Seeger, *New Socks* by Bob Shea, and *Big Fat Hen* will have your toddlers laughing and clucking all through your storytime. The next three, *The Chicken Chasing Queen of Lamar County* by Janice N. Harrington, *Rosie's Walk* by Pat Hutchins and *Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road?* illustrated by various artists will give your preschoolers plenty to consider. You know your readers: but there are ways to share all the books with different age groups if you are flexible. *The Chicken Chasing Queen of Lamar County* will give you enough ideas for an entire storytime, need a puppet: create a stick one from the luscious chickens in feathers and lace; a snack, bring in dried corn, a fun sensory experience drop pennies on a plate. You will see all the wonderful images and fun.

Extensions: Borrow our chicken in orange socks. I've created some pipe cleaner glasses for him too. Share him with *New Socks*. Bring both the big book and regular version of *Rosie's Walk*. Take a walk around the library, too.



Easy Craft:

Bring in feathers, fabric, crayons and glue and have kids decorate their own chickens. Give them sturdy sticks so they can make stick puppets out of them. Let them choose a feather or two to keep as well.

Simple Play:

Are you up for the *Chicken Dance*? Kid's cds often feature chicken songs like Raffi's *Cluck Red Hen*. Or freeze like our chicken chasing queen.

Reader's Theater

The Calabash Kids is a reader's theater script that features chickens. Let your school age kids have fun with this.

<http://www.aaronshp.com/rt/RTE11.html>

Finger Play:

Five eggs and five eggs
That makes ten.
Sitting on top is the mother hen
Cackle, Cackle, cackle;
What do I see?
Then fluffy chicks
As yellow as can be.

Early Literacy Skill:

Language and vocabulary: Chicken meaning afraid. Or focus on chicken sounds, roosters too.

Phonological Awareness: Use the rhyming big fat hen.

Letter knowledge: C for chicken and cluck.

Print Awareness: *Read* the illustrations in the Chicken Chasing Queen of Lamar County.

Narrative Skills: Look at the pictures in Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road. Give each child time to think of the answer they see or imagine.

Print Motivation: Use the big book to show that big or small a book is read the same way.

Here's a short list of some other good chicken fare:

Preschool

The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza by Philemon Sturges

Chicken Chickens Go to School by Valeri Gorbachev

Chicken Joy on Redbean Road by Jacqueline Briggs Martin

Minerva and the Red Truck by Janet Morgan Stoeke

School Age

Barn Party by Claire O'Brien

Funny Frank by Dick King-Smith

Rosa Farm by Liz Wu

Love Ruby Lavender by Deborah Wiles

The Chicken Doesn't Skate by Gordon Korman

The Twin Princes by Tedd Arnold

I Lost my Tooth in Africa by Penda Diakite

Hanne's Quest by Olivier Dunrea

There are so many good chicken books. What was your favorite that I left out?