Fingerplays and Songs

Five Pretty Sandcastles from Storytime Secrets

Five pretty sandcastles standing on the shore.
The tide came in (whoosh!), And then there were four.
Four pretty sandcastles standing by the sea.
The tide came in (whoosh!), And then there were three.
Three pretty sandcastles standing by the ocean blue.
The tide came in (whoosh!), And then there were two.
Two pretty sandcastles standing in the sun.
The tide came in (whoosh!), And then there was one.
One pretty sandcastle just out of reach.
The tide came in (whoosh!), But it stayed there on the beach.

Read Aloud Stories
As you enjoy these read aloud stories with your child, ask them open-ended questions about the stories. Open-ended questions help children to think more deeply about the world around them.

- **When a Dragon Moves In** by Jodi Moore
  A dragon makes a lot of trouble for a boy when it moves into his sandcastle. Why do you think the dragon causes so much trouble? Do you think there is really a dragon in the sandcastle? Why would the boy pretend there was a dragon?

- **Beach Day** by Patricia Lakin
  Four hot crocodiles try to make it to the beach in this rhyming story. What are some of the rhyming words you heard in the story? Why do you think it took so long for the friends to get to the beach. Do you think they still had a fun day together? Why?

- **Splash, Anna Hibiscus!** by Atinuke
  Anna Hibiscus visits the beach with her whole family but no one will play in the water with her. Why didn’t Anna’s family want to splash in the water with her? Have you ever had to play alone like Anna? How did it make you feel? How do you think Anna felt when her family finally joined her in the water?

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Fun Activities To Try At Home!

Making sandcastles at the beach or park is really fun! If you can’t make it to the beach this summer, you can still make a sandcastle using cardboard tubes from either paper towels or toilet paper. You can arrange the tubes in the shape of a castle. If you have any sand at home, you can coat the cardboard tubes with white glue and then roll them in sand. Add a paper flag with your name on it to complete the castle. You can find more craft ideas from www.crafts-for-all-seasons.com.

Anna Hibiscus visits the beach in “amazing Africa” where she and her family live. There are beaches and oceans all around the world. There are many kinds of plants and animals that live on beaches and in our oceans. One way we can protect them is to make sure our trash and plastic bags stay out of the water.

We can enjoy ocean life even if we live far from the seashore. Many aquariums have web cams you can watch. Check out this one from the Monterey Bay Aquarium!