

A Spring-time Sensory Story:

BIG DOG AND THE LAMBS



For this story you will need something 'swishy' for a horse's tail. You could make a tail out of newspaper; just roll up some sheets of newspaper, tape them up and then snip one end to make it feathery.

You will also need a dishcloth and some sort of container for the bucket. I use blue confetti for the water. Put a little of the confetti in your 'bucket' and then you can tip some of this on to yourself and your child!

If you are telling this story in school you could put the various animal noises on to switch recording devices and encourage the children to join in with these. Puppets or soft toys could be added if you are working with children who would enjoy these. Or maybe you could use some other tactile prompts (sheep's fleece for the lambs, feathers for the ducks, soft marabou feather trim for the chicks). It is even possible to find a pig that oinks and a dog that snores online! (Just google Playful Piggy toy and dementia friendly toy dog). Directions for actions are in the square brackets.

One day somebody forgot to shut the gate on McGillicuddy's farm.
The lambs in the field looked up. The lambs in the field looked all around.

[Point up and then make a circle in the air with your finger]

The lambs in the field ran out of the gate!

[Make fast running actions with your legs or tap your child gently on the knees or feet]

They stopped. They looked all around.

[Hold up your hand in a 'stop' sign and then make a circle in the air with your finger]

And they ran down the road.

[Make running actions as above]

They stopped. They looked all around.

[Hold up your hand in a 'stop' sign and then make a circle in the air with your finger]

And they ran along the river and out of sight.

[Make running actions as above but longer this time]

A Spring-time Sensory Story:
**BIG DOG AND
THE LAMBS** (continued)

Uh-oh!

Big Dog did not see anything.

He was fast asleep in the farmyard.

The farmer's daughter flapped her dishcloth at Big Dog.

Flap, flap, flap, flap, flap.

[Flap your dishcloth]

'Find those lambs Big Dog!' she said.

But Big Dog went on sleeping.

Three horses lived on McGillicuddy's farm.

The horses swished their tails at Big Dog.

Swish, swish, swish, swish, swish.

[Swish the newspaper 'tail', let your child feel it swishing]

'Find those lambs Big Dog!' said the horses.

But Big Dog went on sleeping.

Five ducks lived on McGillicuddy's farm.

The ducks nibbled at Big Dog's paws.

Nibble, nibble, nibble, nibble, nibble.

['Nibble' at your child's hands gently, using your fingers and thumbs as a beak]

'Find those lambs Big Dog!' said the ducks.

But Big Dog went on sleeping.

Lots of chicks lived on McGillicuddy's farm.

The chicks ran all over Big Dog.

Up and down and up and down.

[Run your fingers up and down your child's arms.]

'Find those lambs Big Dog!' said the chicks.

But Big Dog went on sleeping.

'Oh no! said the chicks and the ducks
and the horses and the farmer's daughter,
'What are we going to do?'

The girl flapped the dishcloth harder. Flap, flap, flap.

[Repeat all the actions as before]



A Spring-time Sensory Story:
**BIG DOG AND
THE LAMBS** (continued)



The horses swished their tails more.
Swish, swish, swish.
The ducks nibbled and nibbled.
Nibble, nibble, nibble.
And the chicks ran all over Big Dog.
Up and down and up and down.
But Big Dog went on sleeping.
Now a very clever pig lived on McGillicuddy's farm.
That pig was watching and thinking.
That pig picked up a bucket of water in her mouth.
She carried it over to Big Dog.
One, two, three...
Whoosh!

The pig poured water all over Big Dog!

[Turn the bucket/container of confetti over and let some fall on your child]

Big Dog jumped up. Big Dog looked all around.

[Point up and then make a circle in the air with your finger.]

Big Dog ran out of the farmyard.

[Make running actions with your legs or tap your child gently on the knees or feet]

He ran down the road.

[Keep making running actions]

He ran along the river and out of sight.

[Keep making running actions]

Big Dog found the lambs.
And brought them home.

[Make slow walking actions, as if tired]

'Hurray!' said the chicks and the ducks and the horses and the farmer's daughter. And everybody lived happily ever after.

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