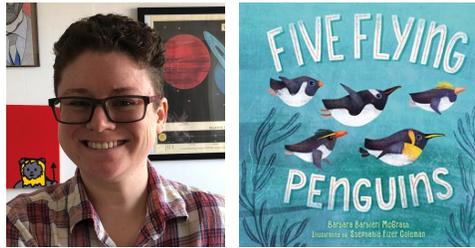


Virtual at Home Storytime
Presented by Everett Pine



Check out the book ***Five Flying Penguins*** by **Barbara Barbieri McGrath**, illustrated by **Stephanie Fizer Coleman** on [Hoopla](#). Each day, Monday through Friday, read the book with your child. After reading the book, complete the provided activities.

Repetition is important for strengthening neural pathways in the brain, building language skills, developing a robust vocabulary, and allows children to take an active part in the reading process through memorization and prediction.

Monday- Read with your child. This is a rhyming, counting book. Begin by counting the penguins on the cover. As you continue reading count up from one as each penguin takes their turn. Ask open-ended questions like, “Which penguin is the second penguin?” or “Which penguin said ‘Hey look! Here comes a seal?’” This encourages the child to interact with the story; helping them learn how to follow a story from beginning to end. You can also work on comprehension skills by asking things like “Which penguin do you think will talk next? Can you point them out to me?”

Tuesday- Talk with your child. As you read the story, talk about familiar and new vocabulary words such as penguin, snow, seal, meal, dove, splash, etc. Ask open-ended questions such as “Show me how you would dive like a penguin. Why do you think the penguins dive into the sea?”. You can also work on descriptive words such as colors or body parts. For example, “Find the penguin with black feet. What color feet do the other penguins have?”. Be sure to respond to what your child says as this supports their interest in reading and helps them learn how to take turns in a conversation.

Wednesday- Write with your child. The story ends with a twist: the seal doesn’t want to eat the penguins. Instead the seal wants to play a game of tag. Write and draw with your child what happens next. You can even use the counting format of the book, with each penguin’s actions propelling them closer and closer to tagging the seal back. Or perhaps the penguins want to do something else altogether? The story is up to you! Practicing writing letters and drawing works on fine motor skills. Tracing letters with their fingers (on paper or in the air) helps them learn and recognize letter forms. For example, write, trace, and sound out “seal”, “penguin”, “5”, and “Five”. When they’re done have them sign their work and ask questions about their drawings and their story.

Thursday- Sing with your child. Singing helps your child break down words, learn the rhythm of spoken language, and improves their listening skills as they listen for action cues in the song. Singing (and acting out) the songs with your child provides a role model to mimic and increases their confidence in participating. These two penguin songs are great examples of the value of repetition in helping children learn new words : [Penguin Dance Song](#) and [Did You Ever See A Penguin](#). Enjoy!

Friday- Play with your child. Recreate the story through crafts, then show off your creations with acting out the story. You can even play your own game of tag just like in the story, with each member of your family holding a craft creation. Ask your child what materials they think are needed to create penguins, the seal, and even the snowy, arctic landscape (including colors, textures, shapes, and sizes). Use your imagination by using everyday things from around the house: scrap paper, toilet paper tubes, newspaper, empty tissue boxes, packing material, etc.