

Sesame Street's 40th Birthday

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Description of Program Sesame Street celebrates its 40th birthday this year. Join the celebration, which includes stories, games, activities, and crafts based on your favorite characters and their favorite letters. Birthday cake and Cookie Monster's favorite food will be served.

Stories

The Monster at the End of This Book by Jon Stone : Grover worries page by page about meeting the monster at the end of this book. Many, many adults name this book as their favorite Little Golden Book. Generations of kids have interacted with lovable, furry old Grover as he begs the reader not to turn the page-for fear of a monster at the end of the book. "Oh, I am so embarrassed," he says on the last page ... for, of course, the monster is Grover himself! ...

It's Not Easy Being Big! : Big Bird discovers that some things are easy to do if you are small and others are easy to do if you are big.

The Biggest Cookie in the World: While waiting for his cookies to bake in the oven, Cookie Monster day-dreams about his favorite subject.

Songs

"Put Down the Duckie" (*Songs from the Street*): Have the children sit in a circle and pass around a yellow rubber duckie to the music. When you stop the music, the child with the duckie gets a sticker. Play until everyone wins a sticker (or you are out of time). With large groups, several smaller circles can be formed.

"Hokey Pokie" (with Big Bird, Elmo, Telly, Zoe, & Oscar; *Kids Favorite Songs 2*): Dance the "Hokey Pokey" with the Sesame Street Characters.

"If Your Name Begins with..." (music of "If You're Happy and You Know It") from *Reading Games for Young Children* by Jackie Silberg

Craft, Game & Activity Stations

The following activities and games can be set up as stations so that children can choose which one to do and how long to stay at each station. A total of 6-8 craft, activity, and game stations works best:



Games & Activity Stations

Matching : Make cards from different Sesame Street characters for a matching game

Sesame Street Puzzle: Purchase a Big Bird or other large floor puzzle for children to play with.

Sesame Street trash cans Use 5 small silver colored buckets decorated to look like Oscar's trash can and have the children try to throw a bean bag in each bucket (like Bozo's Bucket game). Give small prizes for each bucket hit.

Sesame Street Puppet: Put out Sesame Street character puppets for imaginative play.

Letter Hunt : Hide cut out letters throughout the library or program room. The child who finds the most number of letters that begins his/her first name, wins.

Pin the Nose on Big Bird: Make a large drawing of big bird. Have the children close their eyes (or blindfold) and try to put the nose in the correct place on Big Bird.

Craft Stations

Oscar the Grouch

What you will need: toilet paper roll, scissors, glue, printed templates from the site below. Other characters are also available for this craft. This craft could also be done by having children color pictures of the characters and then gluing them onto craft sticks to use as finger puppets.

<http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/cartoons/moscar.html>

Your Favorite Letter

What you will need: A variety of large letters cut from cardstock or tag board. Glue. A variety of objects (real or cut from dies) beginning with the same letter to paste on the letter; for example, buttons to paste on a "B."
Have children choose a letter to decorate, perhaps their first name initial. Cover the letter with glue and attach objects that begin with that letter.



Coloring Pages & games: Print out different Sesame Street characters for children to color. Also available are simple dot to dot and matching games.

<http://www.parenting.com/sesame>

Snacks: Alphabet shaped cookies & chocolate chip cookies

Treat Bags: Sesame Street bookmarks and stickers.

Online Sources of Ideas

Party Ideas www.birthdaypartyideas.com

Mom's party theme ideas, games, etc. www.amazingmoms.com

Sources of Party Good: A variety of materials based on the Sesame Street Characters, including coloring and activity books, party dishes, an Elmo piñata, treat bags, stickers, tattoos, and party hats, can be purchased from the following:

Oriental Trading www.orientaltrading.com

Party Products www.partyproducts.com

Celebration Express www.celebrateexpress.com

Toy Hunt party supplies www.thetoyhunt.com

Others: On a table as the children come into the program, place a variety of large letters. Let the children find the letter that begins their name. They can write their full name and use them as name tags.

More information or questions?

Contact Mary Marshall, Addison Public Library, marshall@addisonlibrary.org