

Ribbit, Ribbit, Grow! A Frog's Life Adventure

Materials You'll Need:

- Toy frog(s) – various sizes if possible, or one representing an adult frog.
- Pictures or simple illustrations of frog life cycle: eggs, tadpole, froglet, adult frog (can be DIY cards or from a book).
- **For 'Frog Eggs' (Choose one sensory option, ensuring close supervision):**
 - Option 1 (Safest): Large, food-grade clear hair gel in a heavy-duty ziplock bag (tape it closed securely, double bag if possible). Add small black pom-poms or beads inside the gel for 'eyes' if desired, ensuring bag is totally sealed.
 - Option 2 (Supervised): Cooked and cooled large tapioca pearls in a bowl with a little water. Ensure pearls are large enough not to be an immediate choking hazard.
 - Option 3 (Use with extreme caution): A shallow tray or bowl, clear jumbo water beads (pre-soaked according to package instructions, **strict and constant supervision required due to significant choking/ingestion hazard if child puts them in mouth**). Many parents opt to avoid these for young toddlers.
- For 'Tadpole': A small toy tadpole (if available) or a dark ribbon/piece of yarn to wiggle.
- A green blanket or play mat ('lily pad').
- Board book about frogs or their life cycle (e.g., simplified adaptations or tactile books like 'The Teeny Weeny Tadpole' by Sheridan Cain, or similar).

Let's Begin Our Froggy Journey! (Approx. 15-20 minutes)

1. Hello, Little Frog! (2 minutes)

Teacher (Parent): "Look who's here! It's a frog! (Show toy frog) Can you say 'frog'?"

Sing a simple frog song, like (to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"):

*"Little froggy, green and bright,
Hops around with all his might.
Ribbit, ribbit, says the frog,
Sitting on a grassy log.
Little froggy, green and bright,
Hops around with all his might."*

Encourage your little one to touch the toy frog and make a "ribbit" sound with you.

2. Tiny Frog Eggs (3-4 minutes)

Teacher (Parent): "Frogs start as tiny, tiny eggs in the water! (Show picture of frog eggs). Let's touch some 'frog eggs'!"

Present your chosen sensory 'frog egg' option.

- **Gel Bag:** Let your child squish the bag and feel the 'eggs' inside. Tape the bag to a high chair tray or the floor for easier play. Say "eggs," "squishy," "round."
- **Tapioca/Water Beads (with extreme caution and supervision):** Let your child gently touch and explore the 'eggs' in the tray. Describe them: "eggs," "slippery," "round." Ensure no items go in the mouth.

Teacher (Parent): "So many eggs! Shhh, they are sleeping and growing."

3. Wiggle, Wiggle Tadpole! (3-4 minutes)

Teacher (Parent): "Pop! The eggs hatch, and out comes a tadpole! (Show picture of a tadpole). A tadpole swims in the water. It has a long tail!"

If you have a toy tadpole, show it. If using a ribbon/yarn, wiggle it like a tadpole swimming.**Teacher (Parent):** "Look at the tadpole swim! Wiggle, wiggle, wiggle! Can you wiggle like a tadpole?" Lay your child on their tummy and gently help them wiggle their body or legs.

4. Growing Legs! The Froglet (2-3 minutes)

Teacher (Parent): "The tadpole grows and grows! Look (show picture of a froglet), it's getting legs! Now it's a froglet. It still has a little tail, but it has legs too!"

Point to the legs on the picture and on the toy frog. "Legs! To help it hop soon!"

5. I'm a Big Frog Now! (3-4 minutes)

Teacher (Parent): "And then, the tail goes away, and it becomes a big frog! (Show adult frog picture/toy). A frog can hop, hop, hop!"

Place the green blanket ('lily pad') on the floor.**Teacher (Parent):** "Let's be big frogs! Let's hop on our lily pad! Ribbit, ribbit! Jump, jump, jump!" Hold your child's hands and gently help them 'hop' or bounce. Make lots of "ribbit" sounds.

6. Froggy Story Time (3-5 minutes)

Teacher (Parent): "Let's read a story about our frog friends."

Snuggle up and read a simple board book about frogs or their life cycle. Point to the pictures and name the stages as they appear in the book.

7. Goodbye, Frogs! (1 minute)

Teacher (Parent): "We learned all about frogs! From tiny eggs, to wiggly tadpoles, to little froglets, and then big hopping frogs! Ribbit!"

Briefly show the life cycle pictures again in order. Give the toy frog a kiss goodbye.

Tips for Success:

- **Keep it Short & Sweet:** A 1-year-old's attention span is short. Follow their cues and end the activity if they seem disinterested or tired.
- **Repetition is Key:** Repeat new words ("egg," "tadpole," "frog," "hop," "ribbit") often during play.
- **Sensory Focus:** Emphasize touching, seeing, and hearing. This is how young toddlers learn best.
- **Safety First:** Always supervise closely, especially with small items or sensory materials. Ensure materials are age-appropriate and non-toxic.
- **Have Fun!:** Your enthusiasm is contagious! Enjoy this special learning time with your little one.