

# Echoes of Fun: A Shichida Storytelling Adventure with T!

**Age:** 2.5 years old

**Focus:** Shichida Right-Brain Development & Echo Storytelling

## Materials Needed:

- A simple, short story with repetitive phrases (e.g., "The Three Little Pigs" - focusing on "I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house down!", or a custom simple story like "The Bouncy Ball", or the example "The Little Blue Bird" below).
- Optional: Picture cards or a simple picture book related to the story.
- Optional: Fun props or puppets (e.g., a small ball, bird finger puppet).
- A comfortable and distraction-free space.

## Lesson Objectives (What T will do during this session):

- T will listen attentively to a short story.
- T will repeat 2-3 key phrases from the story when prompted by the adult.
- T will attempt to copy 2-3 simple gestures associated with the key phrases, as demonstrated by the adult.
- T will show enjoyment and engagement during the storytelling activity.

## Let's Get Started! (Warm-up - 2-3 minutes)

1. **Settle In:** Find a cozy spot with T. "T, let's sit down for a fun story time!" Create a calm and inviting atmosphere.
2. **Sound Play & Connection:** Make a few fun, simple sounds together (e.g., "Woof woof!" "Meow!" "Zoom!"). "Can you say 'Zoom' with me? Zooooom!" Encourage T to echo. This gently introduces the concept of echoing and warms up vocal participation.

## Story Time Adventure! (Main Activity: Echo Storytelling - 5-7 minutes)

**Story Example: "The Little Blue Bird"** (Simple, repetitive, and allows for easy gestures. Feel free to adapt or create your own!)

*Adult (with enthusiasm and clear gestures):* "Once upon a time, there was a **little blue bird**."  
(Gesture: Gently flap hands like wings)

*Adult:* "Say with me, T: **little blue bird!**" (Gesture: Flap hands, make eye contact, smile)

*(Pause and give T an opportunity to echo the phrase and/or gesture. Gently encourage and praise any attempt.)*

*Adult:* "The little blue bird loved to **fly so high!**" (Gesture: Raise arms up high and wiggle fingers, looking upwards)

*Adult:* "Your turn, T! **fly so high!**" (Gesture: Raise arms high)

*(Pause for T's echo and gesture. Applaud effort.)*

**Adult:** "One day, the little blue bird saw a **juicy red berry**." (Gesture: Make a small circle with thumb and index finger, as if holding a tiny berry)

**Adult:** "Let's say it: **juicy red berry!**" (Gesture: Berry sign)

*(Pause for T's echo and gesture.)*

**Adult:** "The little blue bird said, '**Yummy, yummy in my tummy!**'" (Gesture: Pat tummy gently with a smile)

**Adult:** "Say with me: '**Yummy, yummy in my tummy!**'" (Gesture: Pat tummy)

*(Pause for T's echo and gesture.)*

**Adult:** "Then the little blue bird sang a happy song: '**Tweet, tweet, tweet!**'" (Gesture: Bring index fingers to lips and tap lightly, like a beak, or use thumb and forefinger to make a beak shape)

**Adult:** "Can you sing it? '**Tweet, tweet, tweet!**'" (Gesture: Beak tap/shape)

*(Pause for T's echo and gesture.)*

## Tips for Success:

- **Be Expressive & Animated:** Use a lively voice, clear and engaging gestures, and lots of smiles. Your enthusiasm is the key to T's engagement!
- **Keep it Short & Sweet:** Focus on 2-4 key phrases per story. Toddlers thrive on repetition but have short attention spans for new structured activities.
- **Repetition is Golden:** Tell the same short story 2-3 times during the session, or revisit it over several days. T will gain confidence and mastery with each repetition.
- **Enthusiastic Positive Reinforcement:** Praise T's attempts warmly and specifically! "Wow, T! That was great flapping!" or "I love how you said 'tweet tweet!'" Even eye contact and smiles are reinforcing.
- **Follow T's Lead & Pace:** If T is particularly interested in one part, spend more time there. If T seems restless or distracted, it's okay to shorten the activity, try a different story, or switch to a more active game and try again later.

## Wrapping Up (Cool-down - 1-2 minutes)

1. **Gentle Recall:** "T, that was so much fun! What did the little blue bird do? Did it **fly so high?**" (Exaggerate gesture). See if T responds verbally or with a gesture. No pressure, just a gentle prompt.
2. **Praise and Connection:** "You were such a fantastic storyteller with me today, T! We made the little blue bird fly!" Offer a hug, high-five, or a celebratory clap.

## Making it Special for T (Differentiation and Engagement):

- **If T is hesitant or shy:** Start with just one very simple key phrase and gesture. Use a favorite cuddly toy as a character in the story and have the toy "help" with the echoes.
- **If T is enthusiastic and confident:** Encourage T to choose the next gesture, or even make up a sound for a character. Ask open-ended questions like, "What else did the little blue bird see?" and incorporate T's ideas into a new phrase.
- **Connect to T's World:** Create simple echo stories about T's daily activities or favorite things. "T is drinking **yummy milk!** (Gesture: pretend to drink). Say with me: **yummy milk!**"

## **How We Know T is Learning & Growing (Informal Assessment):**

- Observing T's active listening (e.g., eyes on you, focused attention).
- Noticing T's attempts to echo phrases (perfect pronunciation is not the goal; participation and effort are).
- Seeing T try to mimic or create gestures.
- T's overall positive emotional response (smiles, laughter, excitement, wanting to continue).
- Increased confidence in participating over several sessions.

This activity beautifully supports Shichida principles by engaging the right brain through vivid imagery (created by words and gestures), rhythm in language, and emotional connection. It's a joyful way to build foundational skills for language, memory, and creative expression.