

*A Circle Time Activity Guide for Librarians to use with:*  
**The Wonderful Thing About Hiccups**

Written by Cece Meng, Illustrated by Janet Pedersen

*Librarian's Circle Time Guide Created by Cassandra Reigel Whetstone*

**Story Summary:** A child embarks on a hilarious adventure with a little sister and a hippo, and explains library rules along the way

**Cece Meng** writes from her home in Santa Cruz, California, where she lives with her husband, two children, three spotted rabbits, and a bird named Lulu. Learn more about her at [www.cecemeng.com](http://www.cecemeng.com).

**Janet Pedersen** illustrates children's books from her home in Brooklyn, New York. You can view more of her art at <http://www.theispot.com/artist/jpedersen>.

### **Circle Time Activity**

**Materials:** copy of THE WONDERFUL THING ABOUT HICCUPS, stuffed animal, list of library rules and expectations, sample form for getting a library card

**Directions:**

1. Ask, "Have you ever borrowed anything from someone? Maybe a pair of skates from a brother or sister, or a toy or a jacket?" Discuss.
2. Say, "When you borrow something from somebody, you have to take extra-special care of what you are borrowing. If I borrow a pair of boots from my friend, I want to be sure that when I return the boots, my friend can see that I took good care of them." Show stuffed animal. Say, "If you were going to borrow my \_\_\_\_, how would you take care of it?" Discuss things children would and wouldn't do with stuffed animal.

3. Sing "A BORROWING SONG"

**A BORROWING SONG**

(Sung to the Tune of Paw-Paw Patch)

Tune can be found at <http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/lyrics/pawpaw.htm>

**When I borrow boots I take care of them** (*pretend to put on boots*)

**When I borrow boots I take care of them** (*pretend to wipe boots*)

**When I borrow boots I take care of them** (*pretend to pat boots*)

**That's what a good friend does** (*gesture to the front with both hands*)

*Repeat using suggestions from children of items they might borrow.*

4. Say, "When we borrow books from the library, we have expectations for how you treat your library books. What do you think those rules are?" Allow children to share their ideas about how to treat library books.
5. Say, "Those are some very good ideas. We are going to read a story about some children who have an adventure at the library. As we read this story, you are going to learn some more rules about how to treat library books."
6. Read THE WONDERFUL THING ABOUT HICCUPS. Consider asking the following questions during the reading:
  - a. Let's listen to our library. Is it a quiet place? *Page 5*
  - b. Have you tried drinking water upside down to cure hiccups? *Page 7*

- c. Why don't library books make good plates? *Page 17*
- d. What might be a good cure for a hippo with hiccups? *Page 30*
7. Say, "I'm going to read the 'Library Book Rules to Remember,' (*page 31,*) and as I read each rule, you give me a thumb's up if you think it's a good rule."
8. Read or share the rules and expectations for your library. Tell children how long they can keep a library book at home and the process for returning books.
9. Ask, "If you want to keep a library book longer than \_\_\_ weeks, what should you do?" Discuss renewing books.
10. Ask, "How many of you already have a library card?" Share your library rules about what age children can get their own library card. Tell children how they can get their own card and show the form children would use to get their own card.
11. Sing DID YOU EVER GET HICCUPS?

**DID YOU EVER GET HICCUPS?**

(Sung to the tune of "Did You Ever See A-Lassie")

*Tune can be found at <http://www.momsvie.com/lassie.mid>*

**Did you ever get small hiccups, small hiccups, small hiccups**

**Did you ever get small hiccups that go like this?**

*Now we're going to do three very quiet, tiny hiccups.*

**Hiccup. Hiccup. Hiccup.**

**Did you ever get some hiccups, some hiccups, some hiccups**

**Did you ever some hiccups that go like this**

*Now we're going to do three normal hiccups.*

**Hiccup. Hiccup. Hiccup.**

**Did you ever get big hiccups, big hiccups, big hiccups**

**Did you ever get big hiccups that go like this?**

*Let's do three hiccups in a big voice.*

**Hiccup! Hiccup! Hiccup!**

**Did you ever get HUGE hiccups, HUGE hiccups, HUGE hiccups**

**Did you ever get HUGE hiccups that go like this?**

*We're going to do three HUGE hiccups, (but not too huge because we are in the library!)*

**HICCUP! HICCUP! HICCUP!**

Suggested books to use with *THE WONDERFUL THING ABOUT HICCUPS*

**Hiccups**

*The Hiccupotamus* by Aaron Zenz  
*Mei Ling's Hiccups* by David Mills  
*Skeleton Hiccups* by Margery Cuyler  
*Why I Sneeze, Shiver, Hiccup, & Yawn* by Melvin Berger  
*Zebras Hiccups* by David McKee

*Hippo Goes Bananas* by Marjorie Dennis Murray  
*Hippo-not-amus* by Tony and Jan Payne

**Libraries**

*Beverly Billingsly Borrows a Book* by Alexander Stadler  
*Library Lil* by Suzanne Williams  
*The Library Dragon* by Carmen Agra Deedy  
*The Shelf Elf* by Jackie Mims Hopkins  
*Tomás and the Library Lady* by Pat Mora

**Hippos**

*A Mama for Owen* by Marion Dane Bauer  
*Chubbo's Pool* by Betsy Lewin  
*George and Martha* by James Marshall