



Little Ewe would rather jump on logs and investigate spider webs than follow the shepherd when he calls. But what happens when she gets lost? How will she find her way home? Told in whimsical rhyme, this humorous counting book for our littlest ones is a delightful reminder that, like a loving parent, our Shepherd will find us and care for us, even when we wander from the path.

Reading *Little Ewe* is just the beginning. Here are six pages of book-themed activities designed especially for you and your preschooler.

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1. MAKE A LITTLE EWE MASK

Ahead of time, cut out the center of a paper plate for each child. Next, cut ears from felt or construction paper. Let your child glue cotton balls around the circle. Add the ears, as shown in picture. To wear, punch holes on the sides and add yarn ties, or attach a paint stirrer to the bottom so your child can hold the mask up. For Extra Fun: Re-enact the story starring YOUR CHILD as Little Ewe!



2. DO A STOP AND COUNT TASK

Using the counting element woven into the story, stop as you are reading to count the various wonders that Little Ewe encounters along the way. For extra skill practice, have children tally the totals for each page. Or, using beans or counters and a cup, have them collect the totals for each page in a cup. At the end they can add up how many wonders Little Ewe encountered in all!

For extra fun: Fold a piece of paper into 12 boxes. Write the numerals, 1 through 12, one per box. Using the story as a guide, have your child draw the matching number of animals or bits of nature that Little Ewe encounters in each box. Examples: one shepherd, three lizards, six frogs etc.

3. PLAY "OH, WHERE IS LITTLE EWE?"

While one person has their eyes covered, another hides Little Ewe (a small sheep toy or one you make yourself - see right) making sure everyone else sees where it is hidden. Then using claps, help the person whose eyes were covered find Little Ewe. No voices allowed. Only clapping– soft if the person is far from Little Ewe and loud if they are close. (Warning: This game will be a big hit!)



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6. SAY SOME "THANK YOU, JESUS," PRAYERS

Little Ewe is author Laura Sassi's imagining of what it might have been like to be the lost lamb in Jesus' famous parable. After reading the story with your little one, open your bible to Luke 15 to see Jesus' very words. Then, together, say a simple prayer of gratitude that Jesus told stories like these so we could be reminded again and again just how much God loves us.

Detecting rhyming words is not only a pre-reading and listening skill, it's also fun! To play, grab 20 index cards and some markers. Next, using words from the story for inspiration, create 10 sets of rhyming cards using pairs from the story such as frog/ log or single words from the story that you pair with words of your own choice such as sheep/jeep or star/jar. Print one word per card and have your child draw a simple representation of it. See sample. To play turn all cards upside down. Take turns turning them over two at a time to find the pairs. If they match, keep them. Continue until all the pairs are found. Have fun!

5. PLAY CONCENTRATION RHYME PAIRS

After reading LITTLE EWE, flip things around by having your child re-read it to you using the pictures as clues. Reading the pictures is a great pre-reading skill because it encourages interacting with the page. Reading the story again and again is also a good way to take to HEART the story's delightful reminder that God, our Shepherd, takes great joy in finding us and caring for us, even when we wander from the path. So, snuggle up and enjoy being "read" to.



One Little Ewe now safe and snug, cradled in kind Shepherd's hug.





Little Ewe bounces on **five** floating logs

Can you help the Shepherd find Little Ewe?



