Octopants
By Suzy Senior
Illustrated by Claire Powell

Related Books:
My Octopus Arms by Keith Baker
Also an Octopus by Maggie Tokuda-Hall
Octopus Escapes! by Nathaniel Lachenmeyer
Tickly Octopus by Ruth Galloway
Hello, My Name is...: How Adorabilis Got His Name by Marisa Polansky
Octopuses by Kate Riggs
Ducks Don’t Wear Socks by John Nedwidek
Froggy Gets Dressed by Jonathan London
Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing by Judi Barrett
Where Do Pants Go? by Rebecca Van Slyke

Rhymes:

Five Little Octopuses
Five little octopuses in a fishbowl (hold up five fingers)
One escaped, and started to... ROLL. (roll your hands very fast)
She changed her color and disappeared from view (hide your hands behind your back)
How many octopuses are left in the crew? (count the leftover octopuses, and repeat until they're all gone)
Credit: Canton Public Library

Once I Saw An Octopus
Once I saw an octopus in the deep blue sea  (put hand over eyes, as if searching)
I called, “Mr. Octopus, won’t you swim with me?”  (hands around mouth to call)
Then out came his tentacles, so very long and straight.  (link thumbs with fingers out)
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. (count 8 fingers)
Credit: Jenn in the Library

The Missouri Building Block Picture Book Award is sponsored by the Missouri Library Association and administered by the Youth Services Community of Interest. To learn more about MLA or to download more activity sheets, please visit http://molib.org.
If You're Wearing...
If you're wearing red, shake your head
If you're wearing blue, touch your shoe
If you're wearing green, bow like a king or queen
If you're wearing yellow, shake like Jell-O
If you're wearing black, pat your back
If you're wearing brown, touch the grown
If you're wearing purple, turn around in a circle
(You can also ask the children to come up with other colors and actions)
Credit: The Wielded Pen Children’s Corner

Songs:

Slippery Fish
Slippery fish, slippery fish, sliding through the water,
Slippery fish, slippery fish, Gulp, Gulp, Gulp!
Oh, no! It's been eaten by an ...

Octopus, octopus, squiggling in the water
Octopus, octopus, Gulp, Gulp, Gulp!
Oh, no! It's been eaten by a ...

Tuna fish, tuna fish, flashing in the water,
Tuna fish, tuna fish, Gulp, Gulp, Gulp!
Oh, no! It's been eaten by a ...

Great white shark, great white shark, lurking in the water,
Great white shark, great white shark, Gulp, Gulp, Gulp!
Oh, no! It's been eaten by a ...

Humongous whale, humongous whale, spouting in the water,
Humongous whale, humongous whale,
Gulp! ... Gulp! ... Gulp! ... BURP!
(Cover your mouth.) Excuse me!
Credit: Jbrary (Watch them to see the actions!)

Orange Octopus
(Tune: If You’re Happy And You Know It)

Oh, I wish I was an orange octopus.
Oh, I wish I was an orange octopus.
Oh I’d wave my lovely legs,
And I’d splash in all the waves.
Oh, I wish I was an orange octopus.
Credit: DLTK
MISSOURI BUILDING BLOCK
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The Clothing Pokie
(Tune: The Hokie Pokie)

You put your socks in
You take your socks out
You put your socks in
And you shake them all about

You do the clothing pokie
And you turn yourself about
That's what it's all about

(Repeat with other items of clothing: pants, shirt, hat, mittens, etc)
Credit: Literary Hoots

Hat, Sweater, Pants, and Shoes
(Tune: Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes)

Hat, sweater, pants, and shoes
Pants and shoes
Hat, sweater, pants, and shoes
Pants and shoes
And belt, and scarf, and underwear too
Hat, sweater, pants, and shoes
Pants and shoes
(Repeat it faster and faster each time)
Credit: Literary Hoots

Activities:
Make an octopus! There are LOTS of octopus craft ideas on Pinterest if you search “octopus crafts for preschool”. Here is one: https://iheartcraftythings.com/octopus-kids-craft.html

Make a handprint octopus with paint: https://crafts.buycontentnow.com/letter-o-octopus-handprint-art-for-preschoolers/

Use this octopus to practice counting! There is also a link on the page to the octopus printables: http://chipmanscornerpreschool.blogspot.com/2013/10/o-is-for-octopus-math.html

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Learn about octopuses! Find a few good non-fiction books about octopuses (like “Octopuses” by Kate Riggs included above) and show the kids pictures of what an octopus really looks like. You could compare a real octopus to the drawn octopus in “Octopants” – how are they the same and different. Talk about some of the characteristics that octopuses have and basic facts about them and where they live. Here is a fun STEM activity to go along with this: http://preschoolpowolpackets.blogspot.com/2018/05/octopus-science-experiment-for.html?m=1

Create and count octopus arms with playdough using this playdough mat: https://royalbaloo.com/ocean-playdough-counting-mats/ You could also have the kids create their own octopus with playdough as well!

Have your kids create a sweater collage! Use crayons, markers, stickers, buttons, ribbon, and/or any other collage/craft items you have on hand. Here is a link to an example: https://funlearningforkids.com/christmas-sweater-collage-craft-kids/

Talk about clothing with your kids and getting dressed! What are the clothes you wear every day? What clothes do you wear depending on what season it is? What order do you put your clothes on? You could also talk about clothing and animals. What if animals really did wear clothes? What would they wear and why? Some people put clothes on their pets (mostly dogs and cats), so you could talk about that as well.

Play clothing Bingo! Here is a link to an inexpensive version on Teachers Pay Teachers: https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Clothing-Bingo-Printable-Game-768573. Or you could create your own.