

Finger Play and Rhymes

These finger plays and rhymes are the backbone of circle time in preschools everywhere. The hand motions encourage children to participate. They love to copy you! Begin showing simple and familiar songs and plays they may have heard such as Eeency Weency Spider, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Where is Thumbkin?, etc.

Open Shut Them

1. Open Shut Them Open Shut Them Give A Little Clap Clap Clap
Open Shut Them Open Shut Them, Put them in your lap lap lap

2. Creep them creep them Slowly Creep them
All the way up to your chin

open up you little mouth But do not let them in

3. Run them run them run them run them
run them to your toes

Run them run them run them run them
back up to your nose

4. jump them jump them jump them jump them
jump them to your knees

jump them jump them jump them jump them
cover you eyes so you can't see peekaboo!

Five Little Monkeys

5 little monkeys swinging in the tree

teasing Mr. Alligator Can't Catch Me!

Along came Mr.Alligator quiet as can be Snap

(repeat 4,3,2,1,) no more monkeys swinging in the tree

5 Little Children Jumpin on the Bed (Or Monkeys)

5 Little Children Jumpin on the Bed

one fell off and bonked his head,

mama called the doctor and the doctor said

no more children, jumpin' on the bed etc.

(also that's what you get for jumpin on the bed!)

Two Little Blackbirds

Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill

One named Jack & the other named Jill

Fly Away Jack, Fly Away Jill Come Back Jack, Come Back Jill

Three Little Birdies

(Fast) 3 little birdies singing in the tree

singing in the tree, singing in the tree

3 little birdies singing in the tree

laughing at Cecil HE HE HE

(Slow) Along comes Cecil quiet as can be, quiet as can be,

quiet as can be Along comes Cecil quiet as can be Snap

Two little birdies singing in the tree (repeat for 2 and 1)

(to the tune of "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf")

Where is Thumkin?

where is Thumkin? where is Thumkin?

here I am here I am

how are you today sir

very well fine thank you run away run away

10 Little Horses

10 little horses cam galloping to town

5 were black and five were brown

The galloped up, they galloped down

Then they galloped out of town

5 Little Pumpkins

There were 5 little pumpkins sitting on a gate,

the 1st one said oh my it's getting late

the 2nd one said there's witches in the air

the 3rd one said, I don't care

the 4th one said I'm not scared

the 5th one said let's run let's run

who went the wind out went the light

and the five little pumpkins rolled out of sight

5 Little Owls

5 little owls sitting on the barn door
1 flew away & then there were 4
4 little owls sitting down for tea
1 flew away and then there were 3
3 little owls whootin who who who
1 flew away and then there were 2
2 little owls having no fun
1 flew away and then there was 1
1 little owl sitting in the sun
owl flew away and then there were none

Ants and Bees

1. Here is the bee hive where are the bees
hidden away where nobody sees
watch and you'll see them come out of the hive
1,2,3,4,5 buzzzzzzzzzz

2. Here is the ant hill but there's no ants about
dear little ants won't you please come out
just as if they heard my call 1,2,3,4,5 came out
and that was all (crawl)

5 Little Chickadees

5 little chickadees peeping at the door
1 flew away and then there were 4
Chickadee, Chickadee, Chickadedede repeat(1x)
4 little chickadees singing in the tree etc,.....
then there were none
all 5 chickadees came flying back

This Old Man

This old man, he played one
He played knick knack on my thumb
With a knick knack, Paddy Whack
Give a dog a bone
This old man came rolling home
(2-shoe, 3-knee. 4-floor, 5 -side)

Fuzzy Little Caterpillar

Fuzzy little caterpillar crawling crawling on the ground
fuzzy little caterpillar no where no where to be found
though we've looked and looked and hunted everywhere around

When the little caterpillar found his furry coat so tight
then a snug cocoon he made him spun of silk so soft and light
Rolled himself away within it and slept there day and night

See how the cocoon is stirring now a little head we spy
what is this our caterpillar spreading gorgeous wings to fly
soon the free and happy creature flutters gaily by

The Whale

Oh a whale has a tail that goes flippity flop
and a mouth that goes crunchity crunch
if you go with him for a swimity swim
you might be his lunchity lunch munch
you might be his lunchity crunchity munchity
you might be his lunchity lunch

Eeency Weency Spider

The eeency weency spider went up the water spout
Down came the rain and washed the spider out
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain
and the eeency weency spider climbed up the spout again.
(keep the song going by singing from line 2 again)

Clapping Games

Clapping Games Rhythm Teaching children rhythm should be fundamental in all early childhood programs. Use rhythm sticks, bells, drums, etc. to get children tapping the beat. Put on a recording and have the children play along with rhythm instruments. Here are some fun poems and songs that have fun clapping rhythms. The best way to instruct children is to just do it!

The Little Turtle V. Lindsay

I know a little turtle he lives in a box
he swam in the puddle he climbs on the rocks
he snapped at a mosquito he snapped at a flea
he snapped at a minnow and he snapped at me
he caught the mosquito he caught the flea
he caught the minnow but he didn't catch me!
instruct the children to clap on the words snapped and caught act
out the rest

Russian Clapping Game

Clapping Clapping Softly Clap
Clapping Clapping Clap Clap Clap
Roll Them Over Roll Them So Faster Faster We can Go
Instruct the children to clap on each syllable.
Repeat going faster each time!

Mrs. Mosquito

Mrs. Mosquito is hunting for me
BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ (Clap)
You will taste Good when I catch you says she
BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ (clap)
Now she comes close and she lights on my arm
BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ (Clap)
Mrs. Mosquito you'll do no more harm
BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ (Clap)
(Try and swat the mosquito with a clap where the fourth buzz would be)

American Clapping Game

Clap Clap Clap your hands clap your hands together

Clap clap clap your hands let's clap for sunny weather

Repeat substituting wave, tap, rub, shake, roll hands & change the weather too!

Everybody's Got to Grow

Everybody's Got to Grow X Bumble Bee and Buffalo X

From the Tip of your nose to your big fat toes

Everybody's Got To Grow X

Take a little seed hard and round

Not very big but you plant it in the ground

Turn on the sun heat up the snow

Everybody's Got to Grow X

Instruct the children to clap twice at each X

Tapping Songs

The Bear Hunt

Going on a bear hunt, I'm not scared

My friends by my side, my camera too

Hey look, there's a cave, Go inside!

There's something hanging on the ceiling Bats!

Hey I'm not afraid of bats!

(This is a call response song, with the children tapping on their knees)

Aiken Drum

There was a man , who lived in the moon, in the moon

There was a man who lived in the moon

and his name was Aiken Drum **(the kids then tap and drum on their knees)**