

Use of Songs, Rhymes, and Finger Plays

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Use of songs, rhymes, and finger plays facilitate and encourage language development and have other important benefits.

Voice is usually higher when singing, infants hear higher pitches better than lower ones

Friendly voice and facial expressions (smiling) causes child to feel secure

Eye contact between child and caregiver, an important language skill

Close contact helps child feel loved and secure - optimal condition for learning

One on one interaction, an important condition for learning

Melody, rhythm, and words that rhyme make verses attractive to children, teaching listening skills

They are repetitious

so...children can imitate actions, sounds, or words
so...they help teach vocabulary when paired with objects or pictures

They are used and heard throughout child's life...part of our culture

They are nonthreatening - don't require the child to perform

Many teach and reinforce concepts important for their overall development (i.e. peek a boo - object permanence; patty-cake patty-cake - body awareness)

Finger plays encourage and reinforce fine motor skills

They help to develop and naturally reinforce attention span, and memory skills

A P P E N D I X B

Nursery Rhymes, Songs, and Fingerplays

Young children enjoy listening to simple nursery rhymes and songs and participating in fingerplays with actions. They enjoy the interaction as you sing and do the actions with them. The nursery rhymes, songs, and fingerplays chosen will depend on your child's interest and attention.

Some tips to try when using nursery rhymes, songs, and fingerplays.

-  Use a lot of body movement, gestures, facial expression and intonation to make them more interesting. Help your child participate by gently guiding your child's hands as you say or sing the words of the nursery rhyme, song, or fingerplay.
-  Introduce nursery rhymes, songs, and fingerplays during your child's natural routines while dressing, bathing, or during playtime.
-  Repeat your child's favorite nursery rhymes, songs, and fingerplays frequently so he will become familiar with them. Don't expect your child to memorize the words. This takes the fun out of it.
-  After your child becomes familiar with a nursery rhyme, role play the parts of the characters with him.
-  Make a recording of your child's favorite nursery rhymes, songs, and fingerplays so he can listen to them during the day or at bedtime.
-  Use large pictures or real objects as you present nursery rhymes (e.g., stuffed lamb for "Little Bo Peep").

Little Boy Blue

Little Boy Blue, come blow your horn,
The sheep's in the meadow,
The cow's in the corn,
Where is the boy who looks after the sheep?
Under the haystack fast asleep.
Will you wake him? No, not I.
For if I do, he's sure to cry.

Little Miss Muffett

Little Miss Muffett sat on a tuffett,
Eating her curds and whey.
Along came a spider and
Sat down beside her,
And frightened Miss Muffett away.

Mary Had a Little Lamb

Mary had a little lamb,
It's fleece was white as snow.
Everywhere that Mary went,
The lamb was sure to go.
It followed her to school one day
Which was against the rules,
It made the children laugh and play
To see a lamb at school.

Little Jack Horner

Little Jack Horner sat in a corner,
Eating a Christmas pie;
He put in his thumb,
and pulled out a plum,
And said, "What a good boy am I."

Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary

Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary
How does your garden grow?
With silver bells and cockleshells,
And pretty maids all in a row.

Hey, Diddle, Diddle

Hey, diddle, diddle!
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon;
The little dog laughed
To see such sport,
And the dish ran away with the
spoon.

Baa, Baa, Black Sheep

Baa, baa, black sheep,
Have you any wool?
Yes sir, yes sir,
Three bags full;
One for my master,
One for my dame,
And one for the little boy
Who lives down the lane.

This Is the Way the Lady Rides

This is the way the lady rides
Trit-trot, trit-trot
Trit-trot, trit-trot

This is the
way the
gentleman
rides

A-gallop
(4 x)

This is the
way the farmer rides

Hobbledy (3 x)

Hobbleday (1 x)

And into the ditch.

*(Bounce your child on your knee,
each time going a little faster, and
then pretend to let your child
fall off.)*



Eensy, Weensy Spider

The eensy, weensy spider
Climbed up the water spout,
Down came the rain
And washed the spider out
Out came the sun
And dried up all the rain
So the eensy, weensy spider
Climbed up the spout again.

The Bus

The wheels on the bus
Go round and round,
Round and round, round and round.
The wheels on the bus
Go round and round
All around the town.

Variations:

The people on the bus
Go bump, bump, bump.
The horn on the bus
Goes beep, beep, beep.
The babies on the bus
Say, "Wa, wa, wa."
The mothers on the bus
Say, "Sh, sh, sh."
The driver on the bus
Says, "You sit down."
The money on the bus
Goes clink, clink, clink.

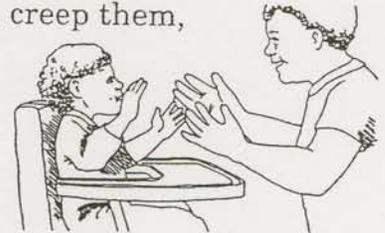
Glasses

These are grandma's glasses.
(Make glasses with fingers over eyes)
Here is grandma's cap.
(Put hand on head)
This is the way she folds her hands.
(Fold hands)

And puts them in her lap.
(Put hands in lap)
These are grandpa's glasses.
(Make glasses with fingers over eyes)
Here is grandpa's cap.
(Put hand on head)
This is the way he folds his arms.
(Fold one arm over the other)
And puts them in his lap.
(Rest arms on chest)

Open Shut Them

Open, shut them, open, shut them,
Give a little clap.
Open, shut them, open, shut them,
Lay them in your lap.
Creep them, creep them,
Creep them, creep them,
Right up to
your little
mouth,
But do not
let them in!
Open, shut them, open, shut them,
Give a little clap.
Open, shut them, open, shut them,
Lay them in your lap.



Rabbit

Here is a bunny with ears so funny.
(Make fist with right hand)
Here is his hole in the ground.
(Put left hand on waist)
When a noise he hears, he picks up his ears
(Two fingers on right hand go up)
And jumps in his hole in the ground.
(Right hand dives through hole made
by left hand)

The Little Finger Men

I have 10 little finger men.
I can make them stand just so.
I can make them jump high.
I can make them jump low.
I can fold them in my lap.
And make them sit just so.

Clap Your Hands

If you're happy and you know it
Clap your hands.
(Clap, clap, clap)
If you're happy and you know it
Clap your hands.
(Clap, clap, clap)
If you're happy and you know it
Then your face will surely show it
If you're happy and you know it
Clap your hands.
(Clap, clap, clap)
Repeat with stamp your feet.
Repeat with turn around.

Grand Old Duke of York

The grand old Duke of York
He had 10,000 men
He marched them up the hill
And then he marched
them down again.
And when you're up, you're up
And when you're down, you're down
But when you're only half way up
You're neither up or down.

Bear Hunt

The "Bear Hunt" is an excellent gross motor activity.

Let's go on a bear hunt.
(Begin walking, swing arms)
Look! I see a tree.
Can't go around it.
Can't go through it.
Guess we'll have to go over it.
(Pretend to climb tree, stretching high, then slide down. Go back to walking)

Look! I see a river.
Can't go around it.
Can't go over it.
Guess we'll have to go through it.
(Diving and swimming motion; can lay on stomach. Pretend to dry off)
Oh look! I see a mountain.

Can't go around it.
Can't go through it.
Have to go over it.
(Motion of climbing)

Oh look!
I see a cave.
Can't go over it.
Can't go around it.
Guess we'll go in it.
Boy, it's dark.

(Close eyes and feel around)
I feel something furry and big.
Let's light a match and see.
It's a bear!

(Scream and run back repeating all the motions until you are home)
Lots of motions can be added to this. For example, close and lock door, take off clothes and shoes. Be prepared for lots of screams and giggles.



NURSERY RHYMES FOR INFANTS

BAA, BAA BLACK SHEEP

Baa, Baa Black sheep
Have you any wool?
Yes sir, yes sir.
Three bags full.
One for my master, and one for my dame,
And one for little
Who lives down the lane.

TO MARKET TO MARKET

To market, to market, to buy a fat pig,
Home again, home again, jiggety jig.
To market, to market, to buy a fat hog,
Home again, home again, jiggity jog.
To market, to market, to buy a plum bun,
Home again, home again, marketing's done.

RUB-A-DUB-DUB

Rub-a-dub-dug,
Three men in a tub-
And who do you think they be?
The butcher, the baker,
The candlestick maker-
Turn'em out,
Knaves all three!

THE BEAR WENT OVER THE MOUNTAIN

The bear went over the mountain
The bear went over the mountain
The bear went over the mountain
To see what he could see.

To see what he could see.
To see what he could see.
The bear went over the mountain
To see what he could see.

And all that he could see
And all that he could see
Was the other side of the mountain
The other side of the mountain
The other side of the mountain\
Was all that he could see.

RIDE A COCK HORSE

Ride a cock horse to Banbury Cross
To see a fine lady
Upon a fine horse.
With rings on her fingers
And bells on her toes
She shall have music wherever she goes.

THIS IS THE WAY WE PLAY OUR DRUMS

This is the way we play our drums
Play our drums, play our drums
This is the way we play our drums
Let's plan our drums together
(Tune of Here we go Round the Mulberry Bush)

MOSES SUPPOSES

Moses supposes his toeses are roses,
But Moses supposes erroneously;
For nobody's toeses are posies of roses
As Moses supposes his toeses to be.

THE MUFFIN MAN

Oh, have you seen the Muffin Man,
The Muffin Man, the Muffin Man:
Oh have you seen the Muffin Man
That lives in Drury Lane?

Oh, yes I've seen the Muffin Man,
The Muffin Man, the Muffin Man:
Oh yes I've seen the Muffin Man
That lives in Drury Lane.