

Rhymes and Songs for Babies and Toddlers

Compiled by the staff at the Pewaukee Public Library.



Why Try Rhymes and Songs?

Rhymes and songs provide a wonderful way for you to bond with your child. Your child will love being able to spend time with you in this way.

Saying rhymes and singing songs is fun! Your child is naturally drawn to the beat, and you might be impressed to see how well your child bounces or dances to the rhythm of a favorite song or rhyme.

Rhymes and songs are great tools for helping your child explore the fun and beauty of language. The rhythm that your child naturally finds so appealing also helps your child to hear all of the individual sounds that make up the words. This is important for helping children learn to speak when they are very young. As they grow older, it will help them learn to read on their own.

Rhymes and songs allow your child to experience language with many senses. For example, your child may enjoy a rhyme with his/her ears (hearing), body (moving or bouncing), and/or with touch (tickles) all at the same time. The more senses a child uses, the stronger the activity's impact will be.

We have tried to include a wide variety of different kinds of rhymes and songs in this collection. We hope that you and your child enjoy trying some of these out together!

Pewaukee Public Library

210 Main Street Pewaukee, WI 53051

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Nursery Rhymes

Look for books full of more great nursery rhymes at the library under the call number J 398.8.

Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the king's horses and all the king's men,
Couldn't put Humpty together again.

Little Bo Peep

Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep
And doesn't know where to find them.
Leave them alone and they'll come home
Wagging their tails behind them.

Old Mother Hubbard

Old Mother Hubbard went to her cupboard,
To fetch her poor dog a bone.
But when she got there the cupboard was bare,
And so her poor dog had none.

Little Miss Muffet

Little Miss Muffet sat on her tuffet,
Eating her curds and whey.
Along came a spider who sat down beside her,
And frightened Miss Muffet away.

Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat

Pussy cat, pussy cat, where have you been?
I've been to London to see the fair Queen.
Pussy cat, pussy cat, what did you there?
I frightened a little mouse, under her chair.

Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary

Mary, Mary, quite contrary,
How does your garden grow?
With silver bells and cockle shells,
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 fun,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

It's Raining, It's Pouring

It's raining; it's pouring.
The old man is snoring.
He went to bed and bumped his head,
And he wouldn't get up in the morning.

Higglety Pigglety Pop

Higglety pigglety pop.
The dog has eaten the mop.
The pig's in a hurry,
The cat's in a flurry,
Higglety pigglety pop!

Old King Cole

Old King Cole was a merry old soul,
And a merry old soul was he.
He called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl,
And he called for his fiddlers three.

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?
He's under the haystack fast asleep.

Wee Willie Winkie

Wee Willie Winkie runs though the town,
Upstairs, downstairs in his nightgown.
Tapping at the window, crying through the lock,
Are the children in their beds? For now it's eight o'clock.

Bouncing Rhymes

Just about any rhyme can be a bouncing rhyme, but these are especially built for it.

From Wibbleton to Wobbleton

From Wibbleton to Wobbleton is fifteen miles.
From Wobbleton to Wibbleton is fifteen miles.
Wibbleton to Wobbleton,
Wobbleton to Wibbleton,
From Wibbleton to Wobbleton is fifteen miles.

Rock or bounce baby from side to side.

Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

Zoom, zoom, zoom,
We're going to the moon.
If you want to take a trip,
Climb aboard my rocket ship.
Zoom, zoom, zoom,
We're going to the moon.
5, 4, 3, 2, 1 – Blast off!

Babies can be lifted up at the appropriate time during this rhyme. Older toddlers can “blast off” themselves.

Little Red Wagon

Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,
Won't you be my darling!

Bounce your child as you say this rhyme.

Giddyap!

Giddyap, giddyap, ride to town,
Bounce baby on knees, facing forward
Giddyap, giddyap, up and down.
Giddyap fast,
Bounce quickly
Giddyap slow,
Bounce slowly
Giddyap, giddyap, giddyap, WHOA!
Dip baby backwards gently

Icka Bicka Soda Cracker

Icka bicka soda cracker,
Icka bicka boo.
Icka bicka soda cracker,
Up goes you!

Icka bicka soda cracker,
Icka bicka boo.
Icka bicka soda cracker,
I love you!

Bounce as you say this rhyme. Lift your child at the end of the first verse. Hug your child at the end of the second verse.

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.

Bounce your baby, or tap your baby's feet/toes to the beat of this rhyme.

Jack Be Nimble

Jack be nimble, Jack be quick,
Jack jump over the candle stick!

Bounce your child as you say this rhyme, lifting your child at the end.

Trit Trot to Boston

Trit trot to Boston,
Bounce baby on knee
Trit trot to Lynn,
Trit trot over the bridge,

Lift up
But don't fall in!
Drop through legs, or tip to side

Tickle Rhymes

Get ready for lots of giggles when you say these rhymes together.

Round and Round the Garden

Round and round the garden,
Went the teddy bear,
One step, two steps,
Tickle you under there!

Jump fingers up baby's arm. End with a tickle.

These Are Baby's Fingers

These are baby's fingers,
These are baby's toes,
Here is baby's belly button,
Round and round it goes.

Point out your child's respective body parts as they are mentioned in this rhyme. If you like, substitute your child's name for the word "baby."

Arabella Miller

Arabella Miller had a fuzzy caterpillar.

Make a caterpillar with your finger

First it climbed upon her mother,

Put it on your hand

And then upon her baby brother.

Tickle up baby's arm

They said, "Arabella Miller! Put away your caterpillar!"

This Little Piggy

This little piggy went to market.

This little piggy stayed home.

This little piggy had roast beef.

And this little piggy had none.

This little piggy cried "Wee, wee, wee!"

All the way home.

Count off "piggies" on your baby's fingers or toes. Tickle your baby when you reach the last piggy!

Hickory Dickory Dock

Hickory dickory dock,

The mouse ran up the clock.

Tickle up your child's arm

The clock struck one, the mouse ran down,

Clap once, tickle down your child's arm

Hickory dickory dock!

...The clock struck two, and down he flew,

...The clock struck three, the mouse said "Wheee!"

Here is the Beehive

Here is the beehive,

Hold up fist

Where are the bees?

Shrug

Hidden away where nobody sees.

Watch as the bees come out of the hive,

1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

Count on fingers

Buzzzzz!

Tickle

This rhyme is both a tickle rhyme and a fingerplay all in one! It is especially great for older toddlers and preschoolers, who will enjoy the extra interaction.

There Was a Little Mouse

There was a little mouse,

Looking for his house.

Not here,

Not here,

But here, here, here!

Gently tickle baby in different places, ending with belly.

Fingerplays

These rhymes have small actions that children can do with their hands.

Way Up High in the Apple Tree

Way up high in the apple tree
Hold arms up high
Two red apples looked down at me.
Make fists for apples
I shook that tree as hard as I could,
Shake the tree
And down fell the apples
Hands to ground
Mmmm, were they good!
Take bite, rub your tummy

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!

Two little blackbirds sitting on a cloud,
One named soft, the other named loud.
Fly away soft! Fly away loud!
Come back soft! Come back loud!

Two little blackbirds sitting on a stick,
One named slow, the other named quick.
Fly away slow! Fly away quick!
Come back slow! Come back quick!

One, Two, Three, Four, Five

One, two, three, four, five
Count on fingers
Once I caught a fish alive.
Clap hands together
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten.
Count on other hand
Then I let him go again.
Open arms wide
Why did you let him go?
Hands on hips
Because he bit my finger so.
Which finger did he bite?
The little finger on the right.
Grab and wiggle pinky finger

I Had a Little Turtle

I had a little turtle.
Put one hand on top of the other, sticking out thumbs
He lived in a box.
Draw a square with finger
He swam in a puddle.
Swim
He climbed on the rocks.
Climb
He snapped at the mosquito,
Clap
He snapped at the flea,
He snapped at the minnow,
And he snapped at me.
Clap, point to self
He caught the mosquito,
He caught the flea,
He caught the minnow,
But he didn't catch me!
Clap, point to self and shake head

Five Little Monkeys

Five little monkeys jumping on the bed.
Hold up five fingers and make them bounce.
One fell off and bumped his head.
Tap own/baby's head.
Mama called the doctor and the doctor said,
Hold fingers like a telephone.
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"
Shake finger as if scolding.
Repeat, taking away one finger/monkey each time until no more "monkeys" remain.

Here is a Bunny

Here is a bunny with ears so funny,
Hold up two fingers
And here is his hole in the ground.
Make a circle with fingers
When a noise he hears,
He pricks up his ears,
And jumps in his hole in the ground!
Make your bunny jump into the hole

Action Rhymes

These rhymes are especially great for older toddlers and preschoolers, who will enjoy doing the actions along with the words.

The Itsy Bitsy Spider

The itsy bitsy spider climbed up the water spout.
Walk fingers upward
Down came the rain and washed the spider out.
Wiggle fingers downward
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain
Put arms in a circle
And the itsy bitsy spider climbed up the spout again.
Walk fingers upward

One, Two, Buckle My Shoe

One, two, buckle my shoe.
Pretend to tie shoe
Three, four, shut the door.
Clap hands
Five, six, pick up sticks.
Pretend to pick sticks up
Seven, eight, lay them straight.
Move arms in a "smoothing" motion
Nine, ten, a big fat hen.
Use arms to create a round belly

Pat-A-Cake

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake,
Baker's man,
Bake me a cake as fast as you can.
Clap in rhythm as you say this verse

Roll it, and pull it,
Roll hands
And mark it with a "B"
Tickle your child's belly
And put it in the oven for Baby and me!
Clap in rhythm

Feel free to substitute your child's name for "baby" in this song when you say this rhyme.

With Our Hands

With our hands we clap, clap, clap.
With our feet we stamp, stamp, stamp.
We jump three times as high as can be.
Then we say, "Hey, look at me!"

Suit actions to words.

I Put My Arms Up High

I put my arms up high,
I put my arms down low.
I put them straight out to the side,
And then I let them go.

Suit actions to words.

Ring Around the Rosie

Ring around the rosie,
Pocket full of posies,
Ashes, ashes, we all fall down!

*Hold hands and walk in a circle.
Everyone sits down at the end.*

The Grand Old Duke of York

Oh, the grand old duke of York,
He had ten thousand men;
He marched them up to the top of the hill,
March in place
And he marched them down again.
And when they were up, they were up,
Stretch up
And when they were down, they were down,
Crouch
And when they were only halfway up,
Bend knees
They were neither up nor down.
Stretch up and crouch low, quickly

Action Songs

These songs are especially great for older toddlers and preschoolers, who will enjoy doing the actions along with the words.

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Row, row, row your boat,
Gently down the stream.
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Life is but a dream.

Rock, rock, rock your boat,
Gently to the shore.
If you see a lion there,
Don't forget to roar!

Row, row, row your boat,
Gently down the stream.
If you see a crocodile,
Don't forget to scream!

*Sit with your child on your lap.
Rock together as you sing this song.*

Where is Thumbkin?

Where is thumbkin? Where is thumbkin?
Here I am! Here I am!
How are you today sir?
Very well, I thank you,
Run away! Run away!

*Bring out and hide thumbs as appropriate.
Repeat if desired for more fingers.*

If You're Happy and You Know It

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're happy and you know it,
And you really want to show it,
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

...stomp your feet.
...shout, "hooray!"
...do all three.

Suit actions to words.

I'm a Little Teapot

I'm a little teapot short and stout.
Here is my handle, here is my spout.
*Put one hand on hip.
Stick the other arm out to the side*
When I get all steamed up hear me shout,
"Tip me over and pour me out!"
Lean to the side.

I'm a very special pot it's true.
Here let me show you what I can do.
I can change my handle and my spout.
Arms switch positions
Tip me over and pour me out!
Lean to the side

This Old Man

This old man, he played one,
Hold up one finger
He played knick-knack on my thumb.
Tap your thumb
With a knick-knack, paddywhack,
Give a dog a bone,
This old man came rolling home.
Roll hands

This old man, he played two,
He played knick-knack on my shoe...

This old man, he played three,
He played knick-knack on my knee...

This old man, he played four,
He played knick-knack on the floor...

Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes

Head and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes.
Head and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes.
Eyes and ears and mouth and nose.
Head and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes!

Point to each body part as you say it. Repeat as many times as desired, doing it faster and faster each time.

Songs

Remember, your child doesn't care if you have perfect pitch or not. S/he only cares that you are spending time together. Sing away!

If you're looking for more great music to listen to, check out a CD of children's music from the library. We have lots to choose from!

Old McDonald

Old McDonald had a farm. E-I-E-I-O!
And on that farm he had a cow. E-I-E-I-O!
With a "moo, moo" here, and a "moo, moo" there,
Here a "moo," there a "moo,"
Everywhere a "moo, moo!"
Old McDonald had a farm. E-I-E-I-O!
Fig...oink
Goose...honk
Dog...woof
Cat...meow
Sheep...baa
Hen...cluck
Horse...neigh

The Wheels on 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 through the town.

The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep...
The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish...
The lights on the bus go blink, blink, blink...
The babies on the bus go, "Wah, wah, wah"...
The mommies on the bus say, "I love you"...

Are You Sleeping?

Are you sleeping? Are you sleeping?
Brother John? Brother John?
Morning bells are ringing. Morning bells are ringing.
Ding, ding, dong! Ding, ding, dong!

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 the little boy who lives down the lane.
Ball, ball, black sheep, have you any wool?
Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full.

Rock-a-Bye Baby

Rock-a-bye baby, in the treetop.
When the wind blows, the cradle will rock.
When the bough breaks, the cradle will fall.
And down will come baby, cradle and all!

Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went out one day,
Over the hills and far away.
Mother duck said, "Quack, quack, quack, quack!"
But only four little ducks came back.

Four little ducks...
Three little ducks...
Two little ducks...
One little duck...

So sad mother duck went out one day,
Over the hills and far away.
Mother duck said, "Quack, quack, quack, quack!"
And all of the five little ducks came back!

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle little star,
How I wonder what you are.