

# Songs, Rhymes & Fingerplays



**Claire Venables**  
ACTIVE ENGLISH

## **Music in The English Classroom**

Songs, rhymes and finger-plays are a common tradition in both Anglo-Saxon and Brazilian cultures. Learning these in English is an easy and special way that parents can participate in their children's language learning process.

### **Why We Teach Songs, Nursery Rhymes and Chants**

Songs, nursery rhymes and chants are an important part of our cultural heritage. Many have survived since the time of Shakespeare. We also use songs and rhymes because research shows that they help to improve and extend vocabulary, awareness of sounds, the rhythm, intonation and individual sounds of the English language. They can also help develop children's ability to wait, listen, remember and predict. These are the foundation skills for literacy.

The process of learning to a rhyme or song begins with the movements, gestures and visuals to help the children understand the general meaning. We then take individual words and concepts from these rhymes and use them in our classroom activities. Music becomes the perfect jump off point to a world of learning.

The most important reason for using songs is the enjoyment and social interaction that comes with learning them. They contribute to building a love of language learning that will last for years to come. I encourage you to learn the words and actions of these songs, rhymes and fingerplays that are in this booklet and do them at home regularly with your children. You will see how easy they are to learn and incorporate into your daily routine.

## **How to teach Nursery Rhymes**

1. Singing Voice
  - Enthusiasm is more important than a good singing voice.
  - Your child will love to do these rhymes with you, no matter how you sound.
2. English Ability
  - Do not worry if your English is not perfect. Do your best, practice and improve alongside your child.
  - Watch the videos on youtube
  - Ask the teacher if you have any doubts about the vocabulary or pronunciation.
  - Don't correct your child's English as it may discourage them from participating.
3. Eye Contact, Gestures and Actions
  - You can do these anywhere you like but one tip I always give is to make sure you can see and make eye contact with your child.
  - Exaggerate your facial expressions and smile as you sing!
  - Keep gestures and actions simple and consistent
  - Don't worry if your child doesn't get them in the beginning. They will eventually.
4. Keep it Fun
  - Make sure you never insist if you see your child is not in the mood.
  - Your child may only watch for the first times. This doesn't mean that they aren't interested. Keep going and they will join in eventually.

## 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!



## LONDON BRIDGE

London Bridge is falling down,  
Falling down, falling down.  
London Bridge is falling down,  
My fair lady.

Build it up with silver and gold.  
Silver and gold. Silver and gold.  
Build it up with silver and gold.  
My fair lady.



### RAIN RAIN GO AWAY

Rain, rain, Go away,  
Come again another day  
Little (Davi) wants to play.  
Rain, rain, Go away,



### THIS LITTLE PIGGY

This Little Piggy, went to market  
This Little Piggy, stayed home  
This Little Piggy, had roast beef  
This Little Piggy, had none  
But this little Piggy, cried wee wee wee  
All the way home!



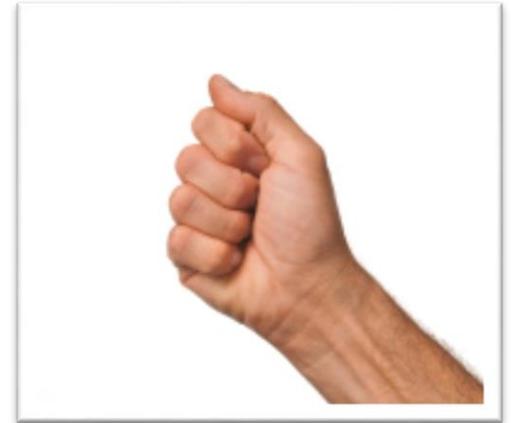
## ITSY BITSY SPIDER

The Itsy Bitsy 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  
And the Itsy Bitsy spider went up the spout again!



## OPEN SHUT THEM

Open, shut them, open, shut them, give a little clap.  
Open, shut them, open shut them, put them in your lap.  
Creep them, creep them, creep them, creep them  
Right up to your chin.  
Open wide your little mouth,  
But do not put them in!  
Roll and roll and roll and roll  
roll them just like this.  
Shake them, shake them, shake them, shake them  
Blow a little kiss.



## **IF YOU'RE WEARING RED TODAY**

*Tune: Muffin Man*  
Are you' wearing red today?  
Red today, red today,  
Are you wearing red today?  
Yes or no.

*Repeat: for other colors*



## **ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOAT**

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



## ROUND AND ROUND THE GARDEN

Round and round the garden,  
Like a teddy bear.  
One step, two step,  
Tickle you under there.



## PATTY CAKE, PATTY CAKE

Patty cake, patty cake, baker's man.  
Bake me a cake as fast as you can;  
Pat it and shape it and mark it with "B",  
And bake it in the oven for baby and me.  
Patty cake, patty cake, baker's man.  
Bake me a cake as fast as you can;  
Roll it up, roll it up;  
And throw it in a pan!  
Patty cake, patty cake, baker's man



## RING-A-RING O' ROSES

Ring a ring o' roses,  
A pocket full of posies,  
A-tishoo! A-tishoo!  
We all fall down.

The cows are in the meadow  
Eating buttercups,  
A-tishoo! A-tishoo!  
We all jump up.



## WALKING IN THE JUNGLE

Walking in the jungle. Walking in the jungle.  
We're not afraid. We're not afraid. x2  
One step. Two steps. Three steps forward.  
One step. Two steps. Three steps back.  
Stop. Listen. What's that?  
It's a frog! - We're not afraid!



Let's stomp.  
Stomping in the jungle. Stomping in the jungle  
We're not afraid. We're not afraid.x2  
One step. Two steps. Three steps forward.  
One step. Two steps. Three steps back.  
Stop. Listen. What's that?  
It's a monkey!  
We're not afraid!



Let's jump.  
Jumping in the jungle. Jumping in the jungle.  
We're not afraid. We're not afraid.x2  
One step. Two steps. Three steps forward.  
One step. Two steps. Three steps back.  
Stop. Listen. What's that?  
It's a toucan!  
We're not afraid!



Let's skip.  
Skipping in the jungle. Skipping in the jungle.  
We're not afraid. We're not afraid.x2  
One step. Two steps. Three steps forward.  
One step. Two steps. Three steps back.  
Stop. Listen. What's that? It's a tiger! ....RUN!



## IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT

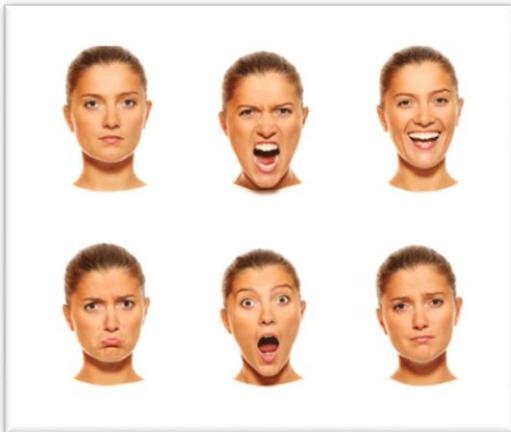
If you're happy happy happy clap your hands.  
If you're happy happy happy clap your hands.  
If you're happy happy happy clap your hands, clap your hands.  
If you're happy happy happy clap your hands.

If you're angry angry angry stomp your feet.  
If you're angry angry angry stomp your feet.  
If you're angry angry angry stomp your feet, stomp your feet.  
If you're angry angry angry stomp your feet.

If you're scared scared scared say, "Oh no!"  
If you're scared scared scared say, "Oh no!"  
If you're scared scared scared say, "Oh no!" Say, "Oh no!"  
If you're scared scared scared say, "Oh no!"

If you're sleepy sleepy sleepy take a nap.  
If you're sleepy sleepy sleepy take a nap.  
If you're sleepy sleepy sleepy take a nap, take a nap.  
If you're sleepy sleepy sleepy take a nap.

Repeat the first verse!



## 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. Round and round.

The door on the bus goes open and shut.  
Open and shut. Open and shut.  
The door on the bus goes open and shut. Open and shut.

The wipers on the bus go swish swish swish.  
Swish swish swish. Swish swish swish.  
The wipers on the bus go swish swish swish. Swish swish swish.

The horn on the bus goes beep beep beep.  
Beep beep beep. Beep beep beep.  
The horn on the bus goes beep beep beep. Beep beep beep.

The people on the bus go up and down.  
Up and down. Up and down.  
The people on the bus go up and down. Up and down.

The babies on the bus go wah wah wah.  
Wah wah wah. Wah wah wah.  
The babies on the bus go wah wah wah. Wah wah wah.

The mummies on the bus go, "Shhh shhh shhh."  
"Shhh shhh shhh. Shhh shhh shhh."  
The daddies on the bus go, "Shhh shhh shhh. Shhh shhh shhh."



## **THE FINGER FAMILY**

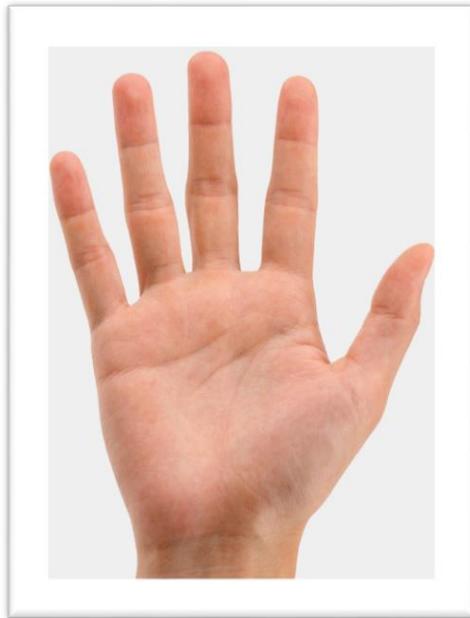
Daddy finger, daddy finger, where are you?  
Here I am, here I am. How do you do?

Mommy finger, Mommy finger, where are you?  
Here I am, here I am. How do you do?

Brother finger, Brother finger, where are you?  
Here I am, here I am. How do you do?

Sister finger, Sister finger, where are you?  
Here I am, here I am. How do you do?

Baby finger, Baby finger, where are you?  
Here I am, here I am. How do you do?



## **HEAD SHOULDERS KNEES AND TOES**

Head and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes  
Head and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes  
and eyes and ears and mouth and nose,  
Head and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes!



## **5 LITTLE MONKEYS**

Five little monkeys jumping on the bed  
One fell off and bumped his head  
Momma called the doctor and the doctor said  
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"

Four little monkeys... ..

Three little monkeys ...

Two little monkeys ...

One little monkey jumping on the bed  
She fell off and bumped her head  
Momma called the doctor and the doctor said  
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"

