

# *Read Right from the Start on the Cox Campus*

## **Rhymes Collection**

**Nursery Rhymes, Finger plays, and Songs for Young Children**

**Share the magic,  
Share the time.  
Give a child the gift  
Of Rhythm and Rhyme!**

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## Introduction

The *Read Right from the Start on the Cox Campus Rhymes Collection* contains popular nursery rhymes, finger plays, songs, poems, and other types of rhythm and rhyme activities, many of which are well-known in the early learning environment. Some of these nursery rhymes have been passed down from one generation to another for hundreds of years!

The rhymes and songs included in this collection were chosen mostly for their popularity and because they offer particularly rich language that builds children's vocabulary, knowledge, and phonological awareness...all critical for developing early literacy skills. These selections only represent a fraction of all the options out there. (For example, did you know there are as many as 700 *Mother Goose Rhymes* in the world? Here, we include about 30 of the best known.)

This resource is intended to support you as you implement Rhythm & Rhyme. The contents are appropriate for all early learning settings, for children birth to age 8. Interests will vary with each age group and individual children, so you'll decide which rhymes and songs are right for the children you teach.

Here are some tips for you before you dive in:

- **Take the Rhyme with Me** course to learn more about the benefits and best practices for using rhythm and rhyme in the early learning environment.
- **Make sure rhythm and rhyme activities are a part of every day:** during transitions, routines, tuning-in before activities, group meetings, etc. There's a rhyme for every time!
- **Keep in mind the seven features of great Rhythm & Rhyme teachers:**
  - 1- **It's all about fun** – young children learn best when they're having fun;
  - 2 - **There's an actor in you-** your gestures, facial expressions, body movements, and voice make all the difference;
  - 3 – **Be ready** – prepare and practice ahead of time; much of the value of rhythm and rhyme comes from the interactions you have with children. The less you rely on notes or this book in the classroom, the more you can focus on the child.
  - 4 - **Tune in to children even more** – take advantages of opportunities that come up;
  - 5 – **Participation makes them thrive** – encourage all children's expression;
  - 6 – **Videos and rhyme time don't mix** – No electronic device can take your place when it comes to delivering Rhythm and Rhyme (no CDs or videos);
  - 7 – **We're all cultural creatures** – include Rhythm & Rhyme from all cultures and in various languages.
- **Share this resource with families and ask them to share their favorite rhymes with you,** so you can bring rhythm and rhyme from different cultures and languages into your classroom.
- **With every song and rhyme, you are helping to prepare children for success in learning, including reading!**

All of the rhymes, songs, and poems in this collection are in the public domain, meaning there are no restrictions on their use and distribution. The editor has made every effort to verify copyright status and authenticity of lyrics. For suggestions, corrections, or other inquiries, please contact [rollinsinfo@AtlantaSpeechSchool.org](mailto:rollinsinfo@AtlantaSpeechSchool.org).

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## Rhymes for Routine Times

Simple little rhymes for various times, such as transitions, routines, or whenever you have a chance for fun and social bonding.

### Clean Up

Clean up, clean up,  
Everybody, everywhere.  
Clean up, clean up,  
Everybody do your share!

Use this fun little chant to help keep children on task after play or a meal. You can recite it or make up a tune and sing it until the job is done!

### Early to Bed

Early to bed,  
Early to rise  
Makes little \_\_\_\_\_  
Healthy, happy, and wise.

### Peek-a-boo

Peek-a-boo, Peek-a-boo,  
Mommy's playing a game with you.  
Peek-a-boo, Peek-a-boo,  
See if you can play it, too.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Cover and uncover face with hands or object*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Substitute other name as needed (daddy, brother, etc.)*

### Star Light, Star Bright

Star light, star bright,  
First star I see tonight,  
I wish I may, I wish I might,  
Have this wish I wish tonight.

### Two Little Eyes

Two little eyes to look around.  
Two little ears to hear each sound.  
One little nose to smell what's sweet.  
One little mouth that likes to eat.

## Two Little Hands Go Clap Clap Clap

Two little hands go clap, clap, clap.

Two little feet go tap, tap, tap.

Two little eyes are open wide.

One little head goes side to side.

## Where Is \_\_\_\_\_?

Where is [child's name]?

Where is [child's name]?

There [he/she] is.

There [he/she] is.

How are you today?

How are you today?

Yes you are.

Yes you are.

Sung to the tune of "Thumbkin," same as "Are You Sleeping/Frère Jacques."

\_\_\_\_\_ *Wait for child to answer*

## Finger plays

These little rhyme games are a perfect way to start a morning or afternoon meeting, capture children's attention during transitions, or any time a little fun is needed!

### Big Apple, Little Apple

Big apple,	_____	<i>Hands make shape of big apple</i>
Little apple,	_____	<i>Hands make shape of small apple</i>
Suzie Q.	_____	<i>Shake hands</i>
Shake 'em to the left,	_____	<i>Shake to the left</i>
Shake 'em to the right,	_____	<i>Shake to the right</i>
Shake 'em to the middle,	_____	<i>Shake in middle</i>
Then shake 'em out of sight.	_____	<i>Gradually shake them behind back, out of sight</i>

### Five Little Apples

You can recite this or sing it to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle..."

Way up high in the apple tree,	_____	<i>Point up</i>
Five little apples smiled at me.	_____	<i>Hold up five fingers</i>
I shook that tree as hard as I could.	_____	<i>Shake that tree!</i>
Down came an apple,	_____	<i>Motion downward</i>
And <i>mmm</i> it was good!	_____	<i>Rub your belly</i>

*Continue with four, three, two, and finally one apple.*

### Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went out to play  
Over the hill and far away.  
Mother Duck said, "Quack, quack, quack, quack,"  
But only four little ducks came back.

Richer vocab alternative:  
"Four little ducks came  
*waddling* back."

Four little ducks went out to play  
Over the hill and far away.  
Mother Duck said, "quack, quack, quack, quack,"  
But only three little ducks came back.

**Math** concept: How many  
little ducks are missing?

*Repeat, losing one additional duck until last line:*  
...But none of the little ducks came back.

*Final verse:*

Sad Mother Duck went out one day  
Over the hill and far away.  
Mother Duck said, "Quack, quack, quack, quack,"  
And all five little ducks came waddling back.

## Five Little Speckled Frogs

Five little speckled frogs  
Sat on a speckled log  
Eating the most delicious bugs  
One jumped into the pool  
Where it was nice and cool  
Then there were four green speckled frogs.

*Repeat until there is only one frog.*

*Last verse:*

One little speckled frog  
Sat on a speckled log  
Eating the most delicious bugs.  
It jumped into the pool  
Where it was nice and cool  
Now there are no more speckled frogs.

Search for examples [online](#) if you're not familiar with this fun tune!

\_\_\_\_\_ *Hold up five fingers (frogs) on top of other arm (log)*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Yum! Yum!*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Jump a finger off the log*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Hold up four fingers, say "Glub! Glub!"*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Hold up one finger on log*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Yum! Yum!*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Jump off the log*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Glub! Glub!*

## Herman the Worm

I was sittin' on my fencepost,  
chewing my bubblegum,  
Playin' with my yo-yo,  
When along came Herman the worm,  
And he was *this* big.  
And I said, "Herman? What happened?"  
"I swallowed a fly."

\_\_\_\_\_ *Pause to make chewing sound, chew, chew, chew, chew*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Make yoyo motion and say "doo-wop, doo-wop"*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Use index fingers to show length of little worm*

I was sittin' on my fencepost,  
chewing my bubblegum,  
Playin' with my yo-yo,  
When along came Herman the worm,  
And he was *this* big.  
And I said, "Herman? What happened?"  
"I swallowed a turtle."

\_\_\_\_\_ *Chew, chew, chew, chew*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Doo-wop, doo-wop*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Use hands to show the worm is bigger*

I was sittin' on my fencepost,  
chewing my bubblegum,  
Playin' with my yo-yo,  
When along came Herman the worm,  
And he was *this* big.  
And I said, "Herman? What happened?"  
"I swallowed a cow."

\_\_\_\_\_ *Chew, chew, chew, chew*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Doo-wop, doo-wop*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Use hands to show the worm is even bigger*

I was sittin' on my fencepost,  
chewing my bubblegum,  
Playin' with my yo-yo,

\_\_\_\_\_ *Chew, chew, chew, chew*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Doo-wop, doo-wop*

When along came Herman the worm,  
And he was *this* big.  
And I said, "Herman? What happened?"  
"I swallowed a dinosaur."

\_\_\_\_\_ *Extend arms to show a really big worm*

I was sittin' on my fencepost,  
chewing my bubblegum,  
Playin' with my yo-yo,  
When along came Herman the worm,  
And he was *this* big.  
And I said, "Herman? What happened?"  
"I burped."

\_\_\_\_\_ *Chew, chew, chew, chew*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Doo-wop, doo-wop*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Show the little worm again*

### Itsy Bitsy Spider

The itsy bitsy spider  
climbed up the waterspout.  
Down came the rain  
And washed the spider out.  
Out came the sun  
And dried up all the rain  
And the itsy bitsy spider  
Climbed up the spout again.

Some people sing "Eensy Weensy spider" instead. You can change it up to give children experience with different sounds.

\_\_\_\_\_ *To climb, alternate thumb to index finger of each hand*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Wiggle fingers and lower hands to make rain*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Sweep hands to sides*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Raise hands over head to form circular sun*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Climb as in first line*

### My Little Bunny Has Two Big Ears

My little bunny has two big ears  
And a funny little nose.  
He likes to nibble carrots  
And hop wherever he goes.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Hold two fingers on top of head*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Point to nose*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Pretend to nibble your finger*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Hop like a bunny!*

### Open, Shut Them

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.

This one can be sung or simply recited.  
The actions are [self-explanatory](#).

Creep them, creep them,  
Creep them, creep them,  
Right up to your chin, chin, chin.  
Open up your little mouth,  
But do not put them in.

## Put Your Hands Up, Up

Put your hands up, up,  
Reach them to the sky.  
Let your hands come slowly down,  
Touch the floor without a sound.

## Ram, Sam, Sam – a nonsense song from Morocco

A ram, sam, sam,  
A ram, sam, sam,  
Goolie, goolie, goolie, goolie  
A ram, sam, sam  
A raffy, a raffy,  
Goolie, goolie, goolie, goolie,  
And a RAM, SAM, SAM!

\_\_\_\_\_ *Hit one fist on top of the other*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Hit opposite fist on top of the other*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Roll hand-over-hand*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Hit fist again*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Raise both hands*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Roll hands again*

## Round and Round the Garden

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

Round and round the forest  
Like a little deer,  
One step, two step,  
Tickle you here!

Round and round the garden  
In the wind and rain,  
One step, two step,  
Tickle you again!

This is a fun one for infants and young toddlers on the changing table. The **garden** can be the child's belly, arm, or other area. Walk your fingers around and find a tickle spot!

## Ten Little Firefighters

Ten little firefighters sleeping in a row.  
Ding goes the bell, down the pole they go.  
Off on the engine, oh, oh, oh.  
Using the hose, so, so, so.  
When the fire's out, home so slow.  
Back in bed now, all in a row.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Turn palms up and make fists*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Hands pretend to ring bell, slide down pole*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Pretend to turn steering wheel*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Spray imaginary hose from side to side*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Turn steering wheel slowly*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Turn palms up and make fists*

## There Was a Little Turtle

There was a little turtle.  
He lived in a box.  
He swam in a puddle.  
He climbed 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.

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Cups hands together to make "turtle"*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Outline square "box" with fingers*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Make swimming motion*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Make climbing motion*
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ *"Snap" fingers and thumb like a turtle mouth*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Snap again*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Snap again*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Snap again, toward own face*
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Open and shut hand quickly to show "catch"*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Catch again*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Catch again*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Wave index finger back and forth, "no, no, no"*

## 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,  
This little piggy went...  
Wee, wee, wee,  
All the way home!

This is a classic "toe" play! Start with the big toe and work your way down. Perfect for diaper-changing or dressing time with infants and young toddlers. Who's ticklish?

## Three Balls

Here's a ball,  
And here's a ball,  
A great big ball I see.  
Shall we count them?  
Are you ready?  
One...two...three!

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Make ball with thumb and index finger*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Make ball with other thumb and index*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Put arms up and touch fingers overhead*
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Make all three balls in succession*

## Three Little Nickels

Three little nickels in a pocketbook new,  
One bought a peppermint,  
and then there were two.  
Two Little nickels before the day was done,  
One bought an ice cream cone,  
and then there was one.  
One little nickel, I heard it plainly say,  
"I'm going in the piggy bank for a rainy day."

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Hold up three fingers*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Bend down one finger*
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Bend down another finger*

## Two Little Blackbirds

Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill;	_____	<i>Show finger of one hand, then other.</i>
One named Jack, and the other named Jill.	_____	<i>Put fingers behind back</i>
Fly away Jack, fly away Jill.	_____	<i>Bring fingers back to front</i>
Come back Jack, come back Jill.		
Two little blackbirds sitting on a cloud;	_____	<i>Same basic actions, but...</i>
One named Quiet and the other named Loud.	_____	<i>Say it quietly, say it loudly</i>
Fly away Quiet, fly away Loud.	_____	<i>Quiet then loud</i>
Come back Quiet, come back Loud.	_____	<i>Quiet then loud</i>
Two little blackbirds sitting on a mast;	_____	<i>Same basic actions, but...</i>
One named Slow and the other named Fast.	_____	<i>Say it slowly, say it quickly</i>
Fly away Slow, fly away Fast.	_____	<i>Fly away slowly, fly away quickly</i>
Come back Slow, come back Fast.	_____	<i>Come back slowly, come back quickly</i>
Two little blackbirds sitting on a gate;	_____	<i>Same basic actions, but...</i>
One named Early, and the other named Late.	_____	<i>One finger comes early, the other late</i>
Fly away Early, fly away Late.	_____	<i>One leaves early, the other late</i>
Come back Early, come back Late.	_____	<i>One comes back early, the other late</i>

## Turtles

One baby turtle alone and new.  
Finds a friend, and then there are two.  
Two baby turtles crawl down to the sea.  
They find another, and then there are three.  
Three baby turtles crawl along the shore.  
They find another, and then there are four.  
Four baby turtles go for a dive.  
Up swims another, and then there are five.

This can be read as a simple poem, or you and the children can **invent actions** to act out the lyrics. You can also make up a tune and sing it.

## The Wind and the Leaves

Leaves are floating softly down;	_____	<i>Raise arms and let them flutter down</i>
They make a carpet on the ground.	_____	<i>Spread arms, palms down, to indicate carpet</i>
When, swish! The wind come whirling by and sends them dancing in the sky.	_____	<i>Sway and whirl</i>

## Wiggle Them

Wiggle them, wiggle them, wiggle them so.	_____	<i>Actions are self-explanatory</i>
Wiggle them high.		
Wiggle them low.		
Wiggle them to the left.		
Wiggle them to the right.		
Wiggle them, wiggle them, out of sight.		

Add verses if you want. You can **shake** them, **wave** them, **clap** them, **snap** them...

## Action Songs & Rhymes

These fun songs involve big-body movements to help children release energy while learning about rhythm and rhyme and building social connections.

### Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush

Here we go round the mulberry bush,  
The mulberry bush,  
The mulberry bush.  
Here we go round the mulberry bush  
So early in the morning.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Hold and hands move in a circle*

This is the way we wash our face,  
Wash our face,  
Wash our face.  
This is the way we wash our face  
So early in the morning.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Stay in circle, act out the action*

This is the way we comb our hair,  
Comb our hair,  
Comb our hair.  
This is the way we comb our hair  
So early in the morning.

This is the way we brush our teeth,  
Brush our teeth,  
Brush our teeth.  
This is the way we brush our teeth  
So early in the morning.

This is the way we put on our clothes,  
Put on our clothes,  
Put on our clothes.  
This is the way we put on our clothes  
So early in the morning.

Here we go round the mulberry bush,  
The mulberry bush,  
The mulberry bush.  
Here we go round the mulberry bush  
So early in the morning.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Join hands again and move in a circle*

You can always adapt this song for **specific settings**. For example, if it is time to clean up, you can invite children to sing "This is the way we clean the room" as they work.

Simply **modify the lyrics to fit your needs** during a transition. For example, to the same tune, you could sing "This is the way we march our feet...all the way to the playground" (or wherever you happen to be going).

## Hokey Pokey

You put your [right leg] in,  
You put your [right leg] out;  
You put your [right leg] in,  
And you shake it all about.  
You do the hokey pokey,  
And you turn yourself around.  
That's what it's all about!

This is usually performed with group in a circle.  
Usually includes right leg, left leg, right arm, left arm, head, backside, and whole self.

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Raise arms 90° with fingers pointed up*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Spin in a circle (arms and fingers still up)*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Clap each word or roll your hands*

## I'm a Little Teapot

I'm a little teapot, short and stout,  
Here is my handle, here is my spout.  
When I get all steamed up, hear me shout.  
Then tip me over, and pour me out.

- \_\_\_\_\_ *On hand on hip, other arm out with wrist/elbow bent*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Lean over to "pour" out of spout*

## Johnny Works with One Hammer

Johnny works with one hammer,  
One hammer, one hammer,  
Johnny works with one hammer,  
Then he works with two.

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Seated on floor, legs out,*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Gently hammer one fist on leg through whole verse.*

Johnny works with two hammers,  
Two hammers, two hammers,  
Johnny works with two hammers,  
Then he works with three.

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Hammer both fists on legs*

Johnny works with three hammers,  
Three hammers, three hammers,  
Johnny works with three hammers,  
Then he works with four.

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Tap one heel on floor along with fists*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *It might help to lean back slightly*

Johnny works with four hammers  
Four hammers, four hammers,  
Johnny works with four hammers,  
Then he works with five.

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Hammer both feet on floor, both fists on legs*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *This is getting silly!*

Johnny works with five hammers,  
Five hammers, five hammers,  
Johnny works with five hammers,  
Then he goes to sleep.

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Add your head to the mix!*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Hammer with both hands, both feet, and head*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Rest head in hands and pretend to sleep*

## Looby-Loo

Here we go looby-loo,  
Here we go looby-light,  
Here we go looby-loo,  
All on a Saturday night.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Players dance in a circle. They can skip or shuffle.*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *For added action, players can hook elbows and dance do-si-do style.*

You put your right hand in,  
You put your right hand out,  
You give your right hand a shake, shake, shake,  
and turn yourself about.

\_\_\_\_\_ *In circle facing inward, follow directions*

*Additional verses:* left hand, right/left foot, head.

*Last verse:* Put your whole self in.

## My Little Puppy's Name Is Rags

My Little Puppy's Name is Rags  
He eats so much that his tummy sags  
His ears flip flop and his tail wig wags  
And when he walks he zigs and zags

\_\_\_\_\_ *Use arms to show your sagging belly*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Use hands to show flip-flop ears and wagging tail*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Put hands together and make zig-zag motion*

Flip flop, wig wag, zig zag.  
Flip flop, wig wag, zig zag.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Combine all three actions*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Combine all three actions*

My little puppy loves to play  
He rolls himself in the grass all day  
I whistle [whistle] but he doesn't obey  
He always runs the other way

\_\_\_\_\_ *Make rolling motion with arms*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *After you whistle, shake head and save finger no-no*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Point thumb over shoulder to signify other way*

Flip flop, wig wag, zig zag.  
Flip flop, wig wag, zig zag.

## Pat-a-Cake, Pat-a-Cake

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake,  
Baker's man,  
Bake me a cake  
As fast as you can;  
**Prick** it and pat it,  
And mark it with T,  
And put it in the oven  
For Teddy and me.

**prick:** poke or pierce

This famous rhyme is the basis of a **two-person clapping game**. The game alternates between a normal clap and two-handed or one-handed (crossing) claps with the other person.

Children have been reciting and clapping to it for over 300 years!

Replace the **T** and **Teddy** when you recite it. If adult-child, use the child's name; two children reciting can take turns using own names.

## Sally Go Round the Sun

Sally go round the sun,  
Sally go round the moon,  
Sally go round the chimney pots  
On a Saturday afternoon. Boom!

\_\_\_\_\_ *Hold hands and march in circle as you recite*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Change direction when you say Boom!*

## Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear

Teddy bear, Teddy bear, touch the ground.  
Teddy bear, Teddy bear, turn around.  
Teddy bear, Teddy bear, reach up high!  
Teddy bear, Teddy bear, touch the sky!

\_\_\_\_\_ *Actions for this rhyme are self-explanatory*

Teddy bear, Teddy bear, bend down low!  
Teddy bear, Teddy bear, touch your toes!  
Teddy bear, Teddy bear, turn off the light.  
Teddy bear, Teddy bear, say good night!

## Singalongs and Lullabies

Classic sing-along songs make fun, enriching group activities. Music brings people together for fun, shared experiences.

### 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.

French Version:

Frère Jacques, Frère Jacques,  
Dormez-vous? Dormez-vous?  
Sonnez les matines, sonnez les matines,  
Ding ding dong, ding ding dong.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Z and S are silent on the end of words*

### B-I-N-G-O

There was a farmer who had a dog,  
And Bingo was his name-O.  
B - I - N - G - O!  
B - I - N - G - O!  
B - I - N - G - O!  
And Bingo was his name-O!

There was a farmer who had a dog,  
And Bingo was his name-O.  
*Clap* - I - N - G - O!  
*Clap* - I - N - G - O!  
*Clap* - I - N - G - O!  
And Bingo was his name-O!

There was a farmer who had a dog,  
And Bingo was his name-O!  
*Clap - Clap* - N - G - O!  
*Clap - Clap* - N - G - O!  
*Clap - Clap* - N - G - O!  
And Bingo was his name-O!

There was a farmer who had a dog,  
And Bingo was his name-O.  
*Clap - Clap - Clap* - G - O!  
*Clap - Clap - Clap* - G - O!  
*Clap - Clap - Clap* - G - O!  
And Bingo was his name-O!

There was a farmer who had a dog,  
And Bingo was his name-O.  
*Clap - Clap - Clap - Clap - O!*  
*Clap - Clap - Clap - Clap - O!*  
*Clap - Clap - Clap - Clap - O!*  
And Bingo was his name-O!

There was a farmer who had a dog,  
And Bingo was his name-O.  
*Clap - Clap - Clap - Clap - Clap*  
*Clap - Clap - Clap - Clap - Clap*  
*Clap - Clap - Clap - Clap - Clap*  
And Bingo was his name-O!

### Cookie Jar Song

Who stole the cookie from the cookie jar?  
\_\_\_\_\_ stole the cookie from the cookie jar!  
Who me?  
Yes, you!  
Couldn't be!  
Then, who?

\_\_\_\_\_ *Everyone sings the first 2 lines  
...except the person who is "it"*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Only the "it" sings this*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Everyone else sings this*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Only "it" sings this*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Repeat until everyone has a chance to be "it"*

### Did You Ever See a Lassie?

Did you ever see a **lassie**,  
A lassie, a lassie?  
Did you ever see a lassie,  
Go this way and that?  
Go this way and that way,  
Go this way and that way.  
Did you ever see a lassie,  
Go this way and that?

Did you ever see a **laddie**,  
A laddie, a laddie?  
Did you ever see a laddie,  
Go this way and that?  
Go this way and that way,  
Go this way and that way.  
Did you ever see a laddie,  
Go this way and that?

**lassie and laddie:** Scottish words for girl and boy

## Down at the Bus Stop

Down at the Bus Stop,  
Early in the morning.  
See the yellow Buses,  
Standing in a row.  
Starting up the engine.  
Ding, Ding, Ding, Ding!  
And off we go!

## The Farmer Plants the Seeds

The farmer plants the seeds,  
The farmer plants the seeds  
Hi-ho, the derry-o,  
The farmer plants the seeds.

The sun comes out to shine  
The sun comes out to shine  
Hi-ho, the derry-o,  
The sun comes out to shine.

The rain begins to fall  
The rain begins to fall  
Hi-ho, the derry-o,  
The rain begins to fall.

The seeds begin to grow  
The seeds begin to grow  
Hi-ho, the derry-o,  
The seeds begin to grow.

The vegetables are here  
The vegetables are here  
Hi-ho, the derry-o,  
The vegetables are here.

The farmer digs them up  
The farmer digs them up  
Hi-ho, the derry-o,  
The farmer digs them up.

Now, it's time to eat  
Now it's time to eat  
Hi-ho, the derry-o,  
Now it's time to eat!

Sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

\_\_\_\_\_ *Stoop and pretend to plant seeds*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Raise arms overhead and touch fingers together*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Wiggle fingers up and down*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Stand up slowly*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Hold arms out*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Stoop and make digging motion*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Pretend to eat!*

## Hush, Little Baby

Hush, little baby, don't say a word,  
Mama's gonna buy you a mockingbird.

And if that mockingbird don't sing,  
Mama's gonna buy you a diamond ring.

And if that diamond ring turns brass,  
Mama's gonna buy you a looking glass.

And if that looking glass is broke,  
Mama's gonna buy you a billy goat.

And if that billy goat won't pull,  
Mama's gonna buy you a cart and a bull.

And if that cart and bull turn over,  
Mama's gonna buy you a dog named Rover.

And if that dog named Rover won't bark,  
Mama's gonna buy you a horse and a cart.

And if that horse and cart fall down,  
You'll still be the sweetest little baby in town.

Feel free to make up **your own rhymes** as you go along!

## Mary Had a Little Lamb

Mary had a little lamb, little lamb,  
little lamb, Mary had a little lamb  
whose **fleece** was white as snow.  
And everywhere that Mary went  
Mary went, Mary went, everywhere  
that Mary went  
The lamb was sure to go.

He followed her to school one day,  
school one day, school one day,  
He followed her to school one day,  
Which was against the rules,  
It made the children laugh and play,  
laugh and play, laugh and play,  
It made the children laugh and play,  
To see a lamb at school.

**fleece:** wool, the covering of a sheep or goat

This familiar song is based on an American poem from 1830 about **real events**. The poet, Sarah Josepha Hale, was also known for helping to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday.

## The More We Get Together

To the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?"

The more we get together,  
together, together,  
the more we get together,  
the happier we'll be.  
'Cause your friends are my friends,  
And my friends are your friends.  
The more we get together,  
the happier we'll be.

*You can add verses:*

The more we play together...  
The more we dance together...  
The more we sing together...

## Old MacDonald Had a Farm

Old MacDonald 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 MacDonald had a farm,  
E-I-E-I-O!

Repeat with pig (oink), duck (quack), goose (honk), chicken (cock-cock), horse (neigh), dog (woof), cat (meow), sheep (baa), turkey (gobble), snake (hiss), fish (glub-glub), tiger (roar!), etc., etc.

## Rock-a-Bye Baby

Rock-a-bye baby  
On the tree top,  
When the wind blows  
The cradle will rock.  
When the **bough** breaks,  
The cradle will fall,  
And down will fall baby  
Cradle and all.

**bough:** branch

## This Old Man

This old man, he played one,  
He played knick-knack on my drum  
With a knick-knack, paddy-whack,  
Give a dog a bone,  
This old man came rolling home.

### *Additional verses:*

Two ... shoe  
Three ... knee  
Four ... door  
Five ... hive  
Six ... sticks  
Seven ... heaven  
Eight ... gate  
Nine ... spine

This old man, he played ten,  
He played knick-knack once again;  
With a knick-knack, paddy whack,  
Give a dog a bone,  
Now we'll all go running home.

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Hold up one finger*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Pretend to beat drum*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Continue action, keep the beat!*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Pretend to toss the dog a bone*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Roll hands around and around*
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Remember to hold up appropriate number of fingers*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Tap your shoe*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Tap your knee*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Pretend to knock on the door*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Wiggle fingers to imitate flying bees*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Tap index fingers together*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Point upward*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Pretend to open the gate*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Point to your backbone*
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Hold up ten fingers and keep them up*

## 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!

This is actually only the first verse of a longer poem written by Jane Taylor about 200 years ago. The complete poem can be found in [Sampling of Classic Children's Poetry](#) section at the end of this book.  
(Yes, this is sung to the same tune as the ABC song.)

## 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.

### *Additional verses:*

The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep...  
The door on the bus goes open and shut...  
The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish...  
The motor on the bus goes zoom, zoom, zoom...  
The baby on the bus goes waah waah waah...  
The mommy on the bus says I love you...

## Willaby Wallaby Woo

Willaby wallaby wee,  
An elephant sat on me!  
Willaby wallaby woo,  
An elephant sat on you!

Willaby wallaby wessica  
An elephant sat on Jessica!  
Willaby wallaby wintin,  
An elephant sat on Quintin.

*Conclude by repeating first verse.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Invent a rhyme starting with W for each child's name*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Continue until the elephant sits on everyone*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Older children can take turns inventing rhymes*

## Yankee Doodle

Yankee Doodle went to town  
A-riding on a pony,  
Stuck a feather in his cap  
And called it macaroni.

Yankee Doodle keep it up,  
Yankee Doodle dandy,  
Mind the music and the step,  
And with the girls be handy.

This traditional American song dates back to the Revolutionary War (1770s).

Here, the word *macaroni* has nothing to do with noodles. In the old days, *macaroni* meant fashionable, trendy, or "cool."

# Songs and Finger Plays for Seasons and Weather

These rhymes come in handy during various seasons or weather events.

## Hot Cross Buns

Hot cross buns,  
Hot cross buns!  
One a penny,  
Two a penny,  
Hot cross buns!

This is a traditional Easter song. A **hot cross bun** is a sweet bun made with raisins and decorated with cross (of icing) on top. Traditionally, they are eaten on Good Friday (the Friday before Easter Sunday).

## I Hear Thunder

I hear thunder, I hear thunder  
Do you, too? Do you too?  
Pitter-patter raindrops,  
Pitter-patter raindrops.  
I'm wet too.  
So are you.

Sung to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?" (Frère Jacques)

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Drum feet on floor*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Pretend to listen*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Wiggle fingers to indicate rain*
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Shake body vigorously*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Point to your neighbor*

## 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 couldn't get up in the morning.

## Little Orange Pumpkin

Little orange pumpkin,  
You're happy I can see,  
For when I smile at you,  
You smile back at me!

## Our Snowman

Our snowman  
Stands so tall  
We just made him from snowballs  
With a big black hat,  
To shade him from the sun.  
Making him was so much fun!

Sung to the tune of "This Old Man."

## Raindrops

Raindrops, raindrops, falling all around  
Pitter-patter on the rooftops  
Pitter-patter on the ground.  
Here is my umbrella.  
It will keep me dry.  
When I go walking in the rain  
I hold it up so high!

\_\_\_\_\_ *Move fingers to imitate rain*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Tap softly on the floor)*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Hands over head*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Raise hands in air*

## Rain, Rain Go away

Rain, rain, go away,  
Come again another day,  
Little Johnny wants to play,  
Rain, rain, go away.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Substitute child's name*

## Mother Goose and Other Classic Nursery Rhymes

There are hundreds of “Mother Goose” nursery rhymes, many of which parents and children have been enjoying for hundreds of years. This section features some of the most familiar rhymes.

### 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  
That lives in our **lane**.

**lane:** a narrow road or alley

Wool comes from sheep. People use wool to make warm clothing, like sweaters and blankets.

Count the bags ... 1+1+1.

The sheep's owners, a man (the **master**) and woman (the **dame**)

### Blow, Wind, Blow

Blow, wind, blow! And go, mill, go!  
That the miller may **grind** his corn;  
That the baker may take it,  
And into rolls make it,  
And send us some hot in the morn.

**grind:** break into smaller bits by rubbing or crushing

- Farmer grows corn and sells it to the **mill**.
- Miller grinds the corn in the **mill**, makes flour.
- Miller sells the flour to the **baker**.
- Baker uses the flour to bake yummy **rolls**!

### Cobbler, Cobbler

**Cobbler**, cobbler mend my shoe.  
Get it done by half past two!  
Stitch it up and stitch it down.  
Now see with whom the shoe is found.

**cobbler:** someone who makes or repairs shoes

### Diddle, Diddle Dumpling

Diddle, diddle, dumpling, my son John  
Went to bed with his **stockings** on;  
One shoe off, and one shoe on,  
Diddle, diddle, dumpling, my son John.

**stockings:** long socks

**Diddle** and **dumpling** are used here as nonsense words. There is such thing as a dumpling, but that's not what the rhyme is about.

Why would John go to bed wearing his socks with one shoe **off** and one shoe **on**? He must be exhausted!

## 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.

**fiddle**: another name for a violin

**Diddle** is just a silly word. Actually, this whole rhyme seems really silly!

## Hickory, Dickory, Dock

Hickory, dickory, dock,  
The mouse ran up the clock;  
The clock **struck** one,  
The mouse ran down;  
Hickory, dickory, dock.

**struck**: hit with force; grandfather clocks “strike” the time every hour by ringing a bell.

Even real words like **hickory** and **dock** can be used as nonsense words in a nursery rhyme.

Can you find the **1** on a clock?

## Higgledy, Piggledy, My Black Hen

Higgledy, piggledy, my black hen,  
She lays eggs for gentlemen;  
Sometimes nine, sometimes ten;  
Higgledy, piggledy, my black hen.

**Higgledy** and **piggledy** are nonsense words.

## Jack and Jill

Jack and Jill went up the hill,  
To **fetch** a **pail** of water;  
Jack fell down, and broke his crown,  
And Jill came **tumbling** after.

**fetch**: get, bring back

**pail**: bucket

**crown**: the highest part of something; head

**tumbling**: fall suddenly, fall head-over-heels

Act out: carry a **pail** of water. It's so heavy! Don't spill it!

Does Jack have a real **crown** on his head? No, his crown *is* his head!

(**Crown** is usually a type of hat, but it also means *top*.)

## 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.

There are many myths and theories about the origin of **Humpty Dumpty**.

For children's sake, it's easiest to think of him as a make-believe character who is an egg.

## Jack Be Nimble

Jack be **nimble**,  
And Jack be quick,  
And Jack jump over  
The candlestick.

Let's act this out (**carefully**) while we recite it!

**nimble**: quick, agile, light on his feet

## Little Bo-Peep

Little Bo-peep has lost her sheep,  
And can't tell where to find them;  
Leave them alone, and they'll come home,  
**Wagging** their tails behind them.

**wagging**: wiggling, shaking

In the old days, it was common for children to work as **shepherds**. Both of these rhymes are about children who fell asleep when they were supposed to be working!

## Little Boy Blue

Little boy blue,  
Come blow your horn,  
The sheep's in the meadow,  
The cow's in the corn.  
But where is the boy  
Who looks after the sheep?  
He's under a **haystack**,  
Fast asleep.

**haystack**: grass used to feed animals/livestock is mowed and stacked in the field to dry.

## Little Jack Horner

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

Is Little Jack Horner really a **good boy**?  
Do you think his mother would like him to stick his thumb in his pie?

## Little Miss Muffet

Little Miss Muffet  
Sat on a tuffet,  
Eating of curds and whey;  
There came a spider,  
And sat down beside her,  
And **frightened** Miss Muffet away.

**frightened:** scared

Young children don't really need to know these outdated words, but they might be curious. A *tuffet* is a footstool or low seat. *Curds and whey* is cottage cheese.

Let's act this one out! Who can show me what Miss Muffet did when she saw that *spider*?

## Miss Suzie Had a Turtle

Miss Lucy had a turtle,  
His name was Tiny Tim,  
She put him in the bathtub,  
To see if he could swim.

This is a variation of the traditional schoolyard rhyme, "*Miss Lucy Had a Baby.*" The original version might not be appropriate for all ages, but you can find it online.

He drank up all the water  
And ate up all the soap  
He tried to eat the bathtub,  
But it wouldn't fit down his throat!

\_\_\_\_\_ *Gulp, gulp, gulp!*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Mmm, mmm, mmm!*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Cough, cough, cough!*

Miss Lucy called the doctor,  
Miss Lucy called the nurse,  
Miss Lucy called the lady with the alligator purse.

"He's sick," said the doctor.

"He's sick," said the nurse.

"He's naughty!" said the lady with the alligator purse.

## The North Wind Doth Blow

The north wind doth blow,  
And we shall have snow,  
And what will the **robin** do then?  
Poor thing!

*Doth* is a fancy, poetic way to say *does*.  
The *north wind* is a sign of bad weather.

He will sit in a barn,  
And to keep himself warm,  
Will hide his head under this wing.  
Poor thing!

**robin:** a type of bird.

## Old Mother Hubbard

Old Mother Hubbard  
Went to the **cupboard**  
To get her poor dog a bone;  
But when she came there  
The cupboard was **bare**,  
And so the poor dog had none.

How did the **dog** feel? Can you show me?

**cupboard:** a cabinet or closet used for storage. This is a compound word: cup + board.  
**bare:** empty

## One, Two, Buckle My Shoe

One, two,  
**Buckle** my shoe;  
Three, four,  
Shut the door;  
Five, six,  
Pick up sticks;  
Seven eight,  
Lay them straight;  
Nine, ten,  
A good fat hen.

Great **counting** rhyme! Let's use our fingers to show the numbers!

**buckle:** fasten. In the old days, shoes had buckles, just like belts.

## Pease-Porridge

**Pease-porridge** hot,  
Pease-porridge cold,  
Pease-porridge in the pot,  
Nine days old;  
Some like it hot,  
Some like it cold,  
Some like it in the pot,  
Nine days old.

If you had to eat **pease-porridge** (pea soup), how would you want it? Hot, cold, or after it's been sitting in the pot for nine days?

**pease-porridge:** pea soup. Porridge is boiled cereal, usually oatmeal, but you can make it out of other grains or beans.

## Peter Piper

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers;  
A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked;  
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,  
Where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?

This is a classic **tongue twister**!

**peck:** a bunch, a bagful (technically, 1/8 bushel)

## Polly, Put the Kettle On

Polly, put the **kettle** on,  
Polly, put the kettle on,  
Polly, put the kettle on,  
And let's drink tea.

Sing it! (Make up your own tune.)

**kettle:** a container in which water is boiled to make tea

## Pussy-Cat, Pussy-Cat, Where Have You Been?

Pussy-cat, pussy-cat, where have you been?  
I've been to **London** to look at the queen.  
Pussy-cat, pussy-cat, what did you there?  
I frightened a little mouse under the chair.

**London** is the capital city of England.  
The Queen of England's palace is there.

## Sing a Song of Sixpence

Sing a song of sixpence,  
A pocket full of rye;  
Four and twenty blackbirds  
Baked in a pie;

When the pie was opened,  
The birds began to sing;  
Was not that a **dainty** dish  
To set before the king?

This is a silly, fanciful rhyme. In case children ask, a **sixpence** used to be a type of coin, worth about a nickel. Does this sound like a good kind of **pie** to you?

How many is **four and twenty**?

**dainty:** delicious, fine

## There Was a Crooked Man

There was a **crooked** man, and he went a crooked mile,  
And found a crooked sixpence against a crooked stile,  
He bought a crooked cat, which caught a crooked mouse,  
And they all lived together in a little crooked house.

This is a silly rhyme. Try to draw it! (By the way, a **stile** is a little set of steps used to cross a fence or wall.)

**crooked:** bent or out of shape

## There Was an Old Woman

There was an old woman  
Lived under a hill;  
And if she's not gone,  
She lives there still.

This silly rhyme states the **obvious!**

## Three Little Kittens

The three little kittens, they lost their mittens,  
And they began to cry,  
“Oh, mother dear, we sadly fear,  
That we have lost our mittens.”  
“What! Lost your mittens, you naughty kittens!  
Then you shall have no pie.”  
“Meow, meow, meow.”  
“Then you shall have no pie.”

The three little kittens, they found their mittens,  
And they began to cry,  
“Oh, mother dear, see here, see here,  
For we have found our mittens.”  
“Put on your mittens, you silly kittens,  
And you shall have some pie.”  
“Purr, purr, purr,  
Oh, let us have some pie.”

The three little kittens put on their mittens,  
And soon ate up the pie,  
“Oh, mother dear, we greatly fear,  
That we have soiled our mittens.”  
“What, soiled your mittens, you naughty kittens!”  
Then they began to sigh,  
“Meow, meow, meow,”  
Then they began to sigh.

The three little kittens, they washed their mittens,  
And hung them out to dry,  
“Oh, mother dear, do you not hear,  
That we have washed our mittens?”  
“What, washed your mittens, then you’re good kittens,  
But I smell a rat close by.”  
“Meow, meow, meow,  
We smell a rat close by.”

## To Market, To Market

To market, to market, to buy a fat pig,  
Home again, home again, dancing a **jig**;  
To market, to market, to buy a fat hog;  
Home again, home again, jiggety-jog;

**jig**: a type of dance

This is really more of a **sophisticated poem** than a typical nursery rhyme but it is often included in *Mother Goose* collections.

## A Sampling of Classic Children's Poetry

Following a few well-loved poems intended for young children, written by some great names in American and English poetry. Of course, there are countless others, a few more of which are listed in Appendix A: Modern Children's Poets. Infants and toddlers will enjoy the rhythm and rhyme and some of the imagery. Preschoolers and up can begin to ponder some of the bigger questions and themes to which great poetry opens the door.

### Eletelephony

By Laura Elizabeth Richards (1850–1943)

Once there was an elephant,  
Who tried to use the telephant—  
No! No! I mean an elephone  
Who tried to use the telephone—  
(Dear me! I am not certain quite  
That even now I've got it right.)  
Howe'er it was, he got his trunk  
Entangled in the telephunk;  
The more he tried to get it free,  
The louder buzzed the telephee—  
(I fear I'd better drop the song  
Of elephop and telephong!)

Classic **word play**. It just doesn't get much sillier! Try this on older toddlers and preschoolers and see if they get the joke!

### Happiness

By A.A. Milne (1882–1956)

John had  
Great Big  
Waterproof  
Boots on;  
John had a  
Great Big  
Waterproof  
Hat;  
John had a  
Great Big  
Waterproof  
**Mackintosh** –  
And that  
(Said John)  
Is  
That.

A simple, fun poem that somehow captures all the joy of playing in a spring rain shower.

Consider reading this using the **TIPS Rhyme method**: meaning, rhythm, rhyme (only you might want to mix it up and do rhythm, rhyme, meaning). It has a simple yet satisfying rhythm that children enjoy. You can almost hear those boots sloshing in the puddle!

**Why** is it called "Happiness"? Because playing in the rain (in a proper rain suit) is the sort of fun that all children can appreciate!

**mackintosh**: A bulky raincoat

## The Swing

By Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–94)

How do you like to go up in a swing,  
Up in the air so blue?  
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing  
Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,  
Till I can see so wide,  
Rivers and trees and cattle and all  
Over the countryside—

Till I look down on the garden green,  
Down on the roof so brown—  
Up in the air I go flying again,  
Up in the air and down!

## Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

By Jane Taylor (1783–1824)

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

When the blazing sun is gone,  
When he nothing shines upon,  
Then you show your little light,  
Twinkle, twinkle, all the night.

Then the traveler in the dark  
Thanks you for your tiny spark,  
How could he see where to go,  
If you did not twinkle so?

In the dark blue sky you keep,  
Often through my curtains peep  
For you never shut your eye,  
Till the sun is in the sky.

As your bright and tiny spark  
Lights the traveler in the dark,  
Though I know not what you are,  
Twinkle, twinkle, little star.

## Wynken, Blynken, and Nod

By Eugene Field (1850–95)

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod one night  
Sailed off in a wooden shoe,—  
Sailed on a river of crystal light  
Into a sea of dew.  
“Where are you going, and what do you wish?”  
The old moon asked the three.  
“We have come to fish for the herring-fish  
That live in this beautiful sea;  
Nets of silver and gold have we,”  
Said Wynken,  
Blynken,  
And Nod.

The old moon laughed and sang a song,  
As they rocked in the wooden shoe;  
And the wind that sped them all night long  
Ruffled the waves of dew;  
The little stars were the herring-fish  
That lived in the beautiful sea.  
“Now cast your nets wherever you wish,—  
Never afraid are we!”  
So cried the stars to the fishermen three,  
Wynken,  
Blynken,  
And Nod.

All night long their nets they threw  
To the stars in the twinkling foam,—  
Then down from the skies came the wooden shoe,  
Bringing the fishermen home:  
‘Twas all so pretty a sail, it seemed  
As if it could not be;  
And some folk thought ‘twas a dream they’d dreamed  
Of sailing that beautiful sea;  
But I shall name you the fishermen three:  
Wynken,  
Blynken,  
And Nod.

Wynken and Blynken are two little eyes,  
And Nod is a little head,  
And the wooden shoe that sailed the skies  
Is a wee one’s trundle-bed;  
So shut your eyes while Mother sings  
Of wonderful sights that be,  
And you shall see the beautiful things  
As you rock in the misty sea  
Where the old shoe rocked the fishermen three:—  
Wynken,  
Blynken,  
And Nod.

This is a fantasy bedtime poem about three little fishermen who sail among the stars. The characters—Wynken, Blynken, and Nod—represent the **blinking** eyes and **nodding** head of a drowsy child. It is, quite literally, intended to guide children to dreamland.

## En español

Traditional songs and rhymes in Spanish

### Alicia Va en el Coche

Alicia va en el coche, Carolín  
Alicia va en el coche, Carolín  
A ver a su papá  
Carolín Ca Cao Leo Lao  
A ver a su papá  
Carolín Ca Cao Leo Lao  
Qué lindo pelo lleva, Carolín  
Qué lindo pelo lleva, Carolín  
Quién se lo peinará  
Carolín Ca Cao Leo Lao  
Quién se lo peinará  
Carolín Ca Cao Leo Lao.  
Se lo peina su tía, Carolín  
Se lo peina su tía, Carolín  
Con peine de cristal  
Carolín Ca Cao Leo Lao  
Con peine de cristal  
Carolín Ca Cao Leo Lao

### Arroz con leche

Arroz con leche  
Me quiero casar  
Con una viudita de la capital  
Que sepa coser  
Que sepa bordar  
Que ponga la mesa  
En su mismo lugar.  
Con esta si,  
    **1. Con esta no,**  
Con esta viudita me caso yo.

### Aserrín Aserrán

Aserrín, aserrán  
Los maderos de San Juan  
Piden queso piden pan  
Y a los niños no les dan

Aserrín, aserrán

Los de roque alfandoque  
Los de rique, alfeñique  
Aserrín Aserrán  
Los maderos de San Juan

### Canción de Mambrú

Mambrú se fue a la guerra,  
¡qué dolor, qué dolor, qué pena!  
Mambrú se fue a la guerra,  
no sé cuando vendrá.  
Do-re-mi, do-re-fa,  
no sé cuando vendrá.

Si vendrá por la Pascua,  
¡Qué dolor, qué dolor, qué gracia!  
Si vendrá por la Pascua,  
O por la Trinidad.  
Do-re-mi, do-re-fa,  
O por la Trinidad.

La Trinidad se pasa,  
¡Qué dolor, qué dolor, quéguasa!,  
La Trinidad se pasa  
Mambrú no viene ya.  
Do-re-mi, do-re-fa,  
Mambrú no viene ya.

Por allí viene un paje,  
¡Qué dolor, qué dolor, qué traje!  
Por allí viene un paje,  
¿Qué noticias traerá?  
Do-re-mi, do-re-fa,  
¿Qué noticias traerá?

Las noticias que traigo,  
¡Del dolor, del dolor me caigo!  
Las noticias que traigo  
Son tristes de contar,  
Do-re-mi, do-re-fa,  
Son tristes de contar.

Que Mambrú ya se ha muerto,  
¡Qué dolor, qué dolor, qué entuerto!,  
Que Mambrúya se ha muerto,  
Lo llevan a enterrar.  
Do-re-mi, do-re-fa,  
Lo llevan a enterrar.

En caja de terciopelo,  
¡Qué dolor, qué dolor, qué duelo!,  
En caja de terciopelo,  
Y tapa de cristal.  
Do-re-mi, do-re-fa,  
Y tapa de cristal.

Y detrás de la tumba,  
¡Qué dolor, qué dolor, qué turba!,  
Y detrás de la tumba,  
Tres pajaritos van.  
Do-re-mi, do-re-fa,  
Tres pajaritos van.

Cantando el pío-pío,  
¡Qué dolor, qué dolor, qué trío!,  
Cantando el pío-pío,  
Cantando el pío-pá.  
Do-re-mi, do-re-fa,  
Cantando el pío-pá.

### Cape Nane

Cape nane nú  
Ene tene tú  
Saliste tú  
En el nombre de Je-sús.

### Caballito Blanco

Caballito blanco,  
llévame de aquí.  
Llévame a mi pueblo  
donde yo nací.

### Cucú cantaba la rana

Cucú, cucú cantaba la rana  
Cucú, cucú debajo del agua,  
Cucú, cucú pasó un caballero  
Cucú, cucú con capa y sombrero  
Cucú, cucú pasó una señora  
Cucú, cucú con traje de cola,  
Cucú, cucú pasó un marinero  
Cucú, cucú vendiendo romero,  
Cucú, cucú le pidió un ramito  
Cucú, cucú no le quiso dar,  
Cucú, cucú y se echó a llorar

## Chocolate

Choco-Late  
Moli-Nillo  
Corre-Corre  
Que te-Pillo

## Debajo de un botón

Debajo de un botón, ton ton  
Que encontró Martín, tin , tin  
Había un ratón, ton, ton  
Ay, que chiquitín, tin, tin.

## De-tín Marín

De-tín marín de-dó-pin-güé  
Cúcara mácara títere fue  
Yo no fui, fue Teté  
Pégale, pégale que ella fue.

## Dos y Dos

Dos y dos son cuatro  
cuatro y dos son seis  
seis y dos son ocho  
y ocho dieciséis.

## La Gatita Carlota

Yo soy la Gatita Carlota  
Mi novio es el Gato con Botas  
Te vengo a invitar a un paseo  
Por arriba del tejado  
No puedo, mi madre ha salido  
Ha ido a comprarme un vestido  
Ven a verme mañana  
Yo te espero en la ventana.  
Micifú  
Micifú  
Por tu amor estoy cucú  
Dime "Miau, miau, miau"  
Mí gatito  
Micifú.

### La Niña María

La niña María ha salido en el baile  
Que baila, que baila, que baila  
Y si no lo baila  
Castigo le dará  
Por lo bien que lo baila hermosa Soledad  
Salga usted  
Que la quiero ver bailar.

### Las Manitas

Las manitas, las manitas  
¿Dónde están? ¿Dónde están?  
Yo no las veo. Yo no las veo  
Aquí están, aquí están.

### ¿Lobo Está?

Juguemos en el bosque  
Mientras el lobo no está  
¿Lobo está?  
*Me estoy poniendo los zapatos*  
(Gritos)  
Juguemos en el bosque  
Mientras el lobo no está  
¿Lobo está?  
*Me estoy poniendo el sombrero*  
(Gritos)  
Juguemos en el bosque  
Mientras el lobo no está  
¿Lobo está?  
*¡Sí, y ahora iré por ustedes!*  
(Gritos de espanto)

### Los Diez Perritos

Yo tenía diez perritos,  
yo tenía diez perritos,  
uno se perdió en la nieve.  
no me quedan más que nueve.

De los nueve que quedaban (bis)  
uno se comió un bizcocho.  
No me quedan más que ocho.

De los ocho que quedaban (bis)  
uno se metió en un brete.  
No me quedan más que siete.

De los siete que quedaron (bis)  
uno ya no le veréis.  
No me quedan más que seis.

De los seis que me quedaron (bis)  
uno se mató de un brinco.  
No me quedan más que cinco.

De los cinco que quedaron (bis)  
uno se mató en el teatro.  
No me quedan más que cuatro.

De los cuatro que quedaban (bis)  
uno se volvió al revés.  
No me quedan más que tres.

De los tres que me quedaban (bis)  
uno se murió de tos.  
No me quedan más que dos.

De los dos que me quedaban (bis)  
uno se volvió un tuno.  
No me queda más que uno.

Y el perrito que quedaba (bis)  
se metió para bombero  
no me queda ningún perro.

## Los Pollitos Dicen

Los pollitos dicen  
Pío pío pío  
Cuando tienen hambre  
Cuando tienen frío

La gallina busca  
El maíz y el trigo  
Les da la comida  
Y les presta abrigo.

Bajos sus dos alas  
Acurrucaditos  
Duermen los pollitos  
Hasta el otro día.

## Naranja Dulce

Naranja Dulce  
Limón partido  
Dáme un abrazo  
Que yo te pido

## El Rey de España

Este es el juego del Rey de España  
Lady Sí  
Ula Ula  
Lady Sí  
Cha cha chá  
Lady Sí  
One, two, three.

## Pin pon

Pin pon es un muñeco  
De trapo y de cartón  
Se lava la carita con agua y con jabón

Se peina su cabello  
con peine de marfil  
y aunque le den tirones  
no llora ni hace así

Como siempre obedece  
lo que manda mamá  
estudia las lecciones  
antes de irse a acostar

Y cuando las estrellas  
empiezan a brillar  
Pin pon se va a la cama  
y se echa a soñar

Pin pon dame la mano  
Y dame un apretón  
Yo quiero ser tu amigo  
Pin pon, Pin pon, Pin pon

## Ronda de San Miguel

Juguemos a la Ronda de San Miguel  
El que se ríe se va al cuartel  
A las 1, a las 2 y a las 3.

## Santo Domingo

Santo Domingo  
Que mala pata  
El otro día me encontré  
Con una vaca Muuu  
Que la mataba  
Piún-piún  
Al otro día me encontré  
Con la vecina amada mía  
Querida mía  
Al otro día me encontré con un inglés  
Y me dijo que contara hasta diez  
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten.

## Tengo, Tengo, Tengo

Tengo, tengo, tengo,  
tú no tienes nada,  
tengo tres ovejas  
en una cabaña.  
Una me da leche,  
otra me da lana,  
otra me mantiene  
toda la semana.  
Caballito blanco,  
llévame de aquí,  
llévame hasta el pueblo  
donde yo nací.

## Un elefante

Un elefante se balanceaba  
Sobre la tela de una araña  
Como la tela se resistía  
Fueron a llamar un camarada.  
Dos elefantes se balanceaban  
Sobre la tela de una araña  
Como la tela se resistía  
Fueron a llamar un camarada.  
Tres elefantes, etc.

## Appendix A: Rhythm and Rhyme from Around the World

If you're looking to include multicultural rhymes and songs, here are some resources you can explore:

*Mama Lisa's World* - <http://www.mamalisa.com/> “A place for songs, rhymes, and traditions from across the globe, for both kids and grownups!” – includes audio clips of popular songs and rhymes from around the world to familiarize yourself with pronunciation.

*Mi Cajita de Música (My Little Music Box)* – [www.micajitademusica.com](http://www.micajitademusica.com) “Children’s music catalog with videos and audio clips of popular children’s songs and rhymes in Spanish.”

*Over the Hills and Far Away: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes from Around the World* by Elizabeth Hammill

From the Publisher: “There are 150 rhymes in this collection, from countries all over the English-speaking world, including Great Britain, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ghana, South Africa and the Caribbean. This comprehensive collection contains all the best-loved nursery rhymes, but also some new discoveries, and vibrant rhymes from Native American, First Nation, Inuit and Maori cultures. Each double-page spread is illustrated by a different artist, who has donated his or her work to the Collection or Archive at Seven Stories, Britain's National Centre for Children's Books.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/gallery/2014/oct/13/culturally-diverse-nursery-rhymes-gallery> (gallery, courtesy *The Guardian*)

Other resources for Spanish rhymes:

*Pío Peep: Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes* by Alma Flor Ada (book)

From the Publisher: “Selected from the rich oral tradition of Latin America and the American Southwest, most of the verses are known throughout the Spanish-speaking world. The rhymes cover everything from early morning birds to elephants to angels, and the reason for their enduring popularity is clear. Deeply rhythmic verses, compelling rhyme schemes, and words that “play trippingly on the tongue” characterize every verse. Excellent English adaptations are not literal translations but poetic re-creations. They retain the rhythm, meter, and general meaning of the originals, making the rhymes as memorable and memorizable in English as they are in Spanish.”

*¡Muu, Moo! Animal Nursery Rhymes in Spanish and English* by Alma Flor Ada (book)

*Tortillitas para Mamá and other nursery rhymes* by Margot Griego (book)

Keep in mind there are many popular children’s rhyming books in English which have been translated and are available in many other languages.