



Reading Ever After®



Fingerplays & Action Rhymes

Move and play

Here are a few favorite finger plays and action songs to enjoy together...again and again.

Apple Tree

Way up high in the apple tree (both arms in the air),
Two red apples did I see (both hands in fists in air).
I shook that tree as hard as I could (shake all over),
And down came the apples (fists fall down to floor) -
Mmm, they were good! (rub stomach)

Choo Choo

Here comes the choo-choo train (arms bent, choo-chooing motion and sounds)

Puffing down the track,
Now it's going forward (scoot forward, choo-chooing),
Now it's going back (scoot backwards, choo-chooing).
Hear the bell a-ringing (bell motion and sound),
Hear the whistle blow ("pull" the whistle and make sound),
What a lot of noise it makes everywhere it goes.
Chug, chug, chug, chug.
Shhh...shhh.

The Grand Old Duke of York

(Toddlers can march, raise arms up & down)
The grand old Duke of York, he had ten thousand men.
He marched them up to the top of the hill, and marched them down again.
Now when you're up, you're up; and when you're down, you're down;
And when you're only halfway up, you're neither up nor down.

Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes. (suit actions to words)

Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes.

Eyes and ears and mouth and nose.

Head and shoulders knees and toes, knees and toes.

Here is the Beehive

Here is the beehive (fist with fingers hidden).

Where are the bees?

Hidden away, where nobody sees (try to look into "hive").

Watch and you'll see them come out of the hive.

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5, they're alive!

(pop fingers out of fist one at a time, fingers fly around, make a buzzing sound)

Here is This Hand

Here is this hand, hold it up high (suit actions to words);

Here is the other hand, touch the sky.

This hand, that hand – roll them around;

That hand, this hand – pound, pound, pound.

Here is this hand, hold it up high;

Here is the other hand, touch the sky.

This hand, that hand – roll them around;

That hand, this hand – Hush! not a sound (finger to lips).

I Have Ten Little Fingers

I have ten little fingers (hold out and wiggle fingers)

And they belong to me (suit motions to words).

I can make them do things,

Do you want to see?

I can hold them up high,

I can put them down low.

I can make them hide (put hands behind back),

Or fold them just so (fold hands in lap).

I Put My Arms Up High

(To the tune of "Farmer in the Dell")

I put my arms up high (suit actions to words),

I put my arms down low,

I put my arms out to the side,

And then I let them go.

(You can do this one slow and then faster)

I Touch

I touch my eyes, I touch my nose; (suit actions to words)
I touch my head, I touch my toes;
I reach up high, I bend down low;
I turn around and down I go.

Little Miss Muffett

Little Miss Muffett sat on a tuffet (thumb up)
Eating her curds and whey (eating motion),
Along came a spider, who sat down beside her (crawling hand)
And frightened Miss Muffett away (big, loud CLAP).

Open, Shut Them

Open, shut them; open, shut them (open and close hands),
Give a little clap, clap, clap.
Open, shut them; open, shut them,
Put them in your lap.
Creep them, creep them, creep them, creep them (walk fingers up tummy or arm),
Right up to your chinny-chin-chin.
Open wide your little mouth (open mouth),
But do not let them in (put hands behind back).
Shake them, shake them, shake them, shake them
Shake them just like this.
Roll them, roll them, roll them, roll them.
Blow a little kiss.

Patty Cake

Patty cake, patty cake, baker's man (Clap hands).
Bake me a cake as fast as you can.
Pat it, roll it, and mark it with a "B" (suit actions to words).
And, pop it in the oven for the baby and me.

Pea Pod

Five little peas in a pea pod pressed (fist with fingers hidden).
One grew, two grew, so did all the rest (fingers out one at a time).
They grew and they grew (palms together, moving farther apart - growing)
And they grew and never stopped
They grew so big that the pea pod POPPED!
(arms spread apart; on "POPPED," big CLAP)

Roll, Roll, Roll Your Hands

(Suit actions to words) (To the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Roll, roll, roll your hands as slowly as can be;

Roll, roll, roll your hands; do it now with me.

Roll, roll, roll your hands as fast, as fast can be;

Roll, roll, roll your hands; do it now with me.

(Add additional verses using "clap your hands," "nod your head," "stomp your feet," etc.)

This Little Piggy

(Children can hold up hands and count off on each finger,
then tickle themselves all over at "Wee, wee, wee.")

This little piggy went to market,

This little piggy stayed at home.

This little piggy had roast beef,

This little piggy had none.

And this little piggy cried, "Wee, wee, wee, wee"

All the way home.

Tony Chestnut

(Point to different parts of your body)

Tony Chestnut (toe - knee - chest - nut [head])

Knows I love you (nose - eye - cross your heart - point to others),

Tony knows, Tony knows (toe - knee - nose, toe - knee - nose),

Tony Chestnut (toe - knee - chest - nut [head])

Knows I love you (nose - eye - cross your heart - point to others),

That's what Tony knows (toe - knee - nose).

Turtle

There was a little turtle who lived in a box (fist with thumb out).

He swam in the water, he climbed on the rocks (suit motions to words).

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. (point to self and shake head)

Two Little Ducks

Two little ducks that I once knew

A fat one, a skinny one,

There were two

But the one little duck with the feathers on his/her back

He/she led the others with a quack, quack, quack!

(suit motions to words – waddling, hands flapping behind back for “feathers,” palms clapping together for quacks)

M. Katz, 2007