Fingerplays are important.....

The seemingly simple act of combining movement with a simple rhyme or song can have an impact in many areas of development of very young children. While listening to the rhyme the child is learning about the rhythm, sounds and flow of language. Fingerplays and action songs are also a time for a child and caregiver to give each other one on one attention which develops social skills and attachment.

As children get older they can imitate the movements which helps develop motor skills. Best of all they are fun and easy to do anywhere – on the changing table, in the bath, while standing in line at the store.

Compiled by
Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose
July 2010
**Fingerplay Rhymes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Five Little Fingers</strong></th>
<th>(hold up index finger)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One little finger standing on its own.</td>
<td>(hold up middle finger)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two little fingers, now they’re not alone.</td>
<td>(hold up ring finger)</td>
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<td>Three little fingers happy as can be.</td>
<td>(hold up all fingers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four little fingers go walking down the street.</td>
<td>(hold up four fingers and thumb)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five little fingers.</td>
<td>(wave bye-bye)</td>
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<tr>
<td>This one is a thumb.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wave bye-bye ‘cause now we are done.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Here Are My Ears</strong></th>
<th>(point to ears)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Here are my ears</td>
<td>(point to nose)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here is my nose</td>
<td>(show fingers on hand and wiggle them)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here are my fingers</td>
<td>(point to toes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here are my toes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here are my eyes</td>
<td>(point to eyes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both open wide</td>
<td>(with hands make open wide motion)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Here is my mouth</td>
<td>(point to mouth)</td>
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<tr>
<td>With white teeth inside</td>
<td>(smile and show “white teeth”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Here is my tongue</td>
<td>(point to mouth/tongue)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That helps me speak</td>
<td>(point to chin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here is my chin</td>
<td>(point to cheeks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And here are my cheeks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here are my hands</td>
<td>(wave hands)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That help me play</td>
<td>(point to feet/stomp/walk/making stepping motions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here are my feet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For walking today</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Here Is a House</strong></th>
<th>(stretch arms up touching fingertips like a roof)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Here is a house built up high.</td>
<td>(stretch arms up separately)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With two tall chimneys reaching the sky.</td>
<td>(make a square shape with your hands)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Here are the windows.</td>
<td>(knock)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Here is the door.</td>
<td>(move fingers like a running mouse)</td>
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<tr>
<td>If we peep inside</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>We’ll see a mouse on the floor.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Here Is the Sea
Here is the sea, the wavy sea.
Here is my boat,
And here is me.
All of the fishes
Down below
Wiggle their tails,
And away they go.

(wave your hands from side to side)
(cup your hands like a boat)
(point to yourself)
(wiggle your fingers)
(point downward)
(wiggle your fingers)
(wiggle your fingers behind your back)

Here We Go (can also be sung)
Here we go up, up, up.
Here we go down, down, down.
Here we go forward and backward
Here we go round, round, round

(stand up on toes)
(crouch down)
(take a step forward, take a step backward)
(spin)

Five Fingers on Each Hand
I have five fingers on each hand,
Ten toes on my two feet
Two ears, two eyes,
One nose, one mouth,
With which to sweetly speak.

(show five fingers on each hand)
(point to the 10 toes on 2 feet)
(point to ears and eyes)
(point to nose and mouth)

My hands can help, my feet can tap,
My eyes can clearly see.
My ears can hear,
My nose can sniff,
My mouth can say, “I’m me.”

(make motions according to verse)
(point to eyes again)
(cup hands around ears)
(sniff with nose)

I Clap My Hands
(suit actions to words)
I clap my hands,
I touch my feet,
I jump up from the ground.
I clap my hands,
I touch my feet,
And turn myself around.

(hold hand out palm up)
(move hand around)
(pull hand toward you)
(push hand away from you)
(turn hand upside down)

I Have a Little Wagon
I have a little wagon.
It goes everywhere with me.
I can pull it,
I can push it,
I can turn it upside down.
I Use My Brain
I use my brain to think, think, think.
I use my nose to smell.
I use my eyes to blink, blink, blink.
I use my throat to yell.
I use my mouth to giggle, giggle, giggle.
I use my hips to bump.
I use my toes to wiggle, wiggle, wiggle,
And I use my legs to jump.

(point to temple when “think” is said)
(point to nose and sniff)
(blink)
(give a shout)
(tickle baby)
(move hips side to side)
(wiggle toes)
(jump)

I’m a Choo-Choo Train
I’m a choo-choo train
Chugging down the track.
First I go forward,
Then I go back.
Now my bell is ringing.
Hear my whistle blow.
What a lot of noise I make
Everywhere I go!

(bend arms at side)
(rhythmically move arms)
(move forward)
(move backward)
(pretend to ring bell)
(cover ears)

Itsy Bitsy Spider (can also be sung)
The itsy bitsy spider
Went 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.

(with hands pretend to make spider)
(make “spider” go up)
(wiggle fingers as they come down as rain)
(and make washing movement)
(make a circle with arms)
(and “dry” with hands)
(make spider again that goes up)

My Eyes Can See
(Suit actions to words)
My eyes can see.
My mouth can talk.
My ears can hear.
My feet can walk.

My nose can sniff.
My teeth can chew.
My lids can flutter.
My arms hug you.
**My Head**  
(Suit actions to words)  
This is the circle that is my head.  
This is my mouth with which words are said.  
These are my eyes with which I see.  
This is my nose that is part of me.  
This is the hair that grows on my head,  
And this is my hat I wear on my head.

**Open, Shut Them** *(can also be sung)*  
Open, shut them.  
Open, shut them.  
(On 'Open', place both hands in front of you, palms facing away and opening them wide. On 'shut them', clench hands into fists.) // (clap)

Give a little clap.  
Open, shut them.  
Open, shut them.  
Put them in your lap.  
(Starting at the tummy, slowly 'creep' fingers up toward the face.)

Creep them, creep them.  
Creep them, creep them.  
Right up to your chin.  
(open mouth)

Open up your little mouth,  
But do not let them in.  
(Just as it looks like you're going to put fingers into mouth, quickly run fingers back down body toward tummy.)

**Pat-a-Cake** *(can also be sung)*  
Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker’s man  
Bake me a cake as fast as you can.  
Roll it,  
And pat it,  
And mark it with B  
And put it in the oven for baby and me  
(clap hands together)

(roll hands over each other)  
(pat hands together)  
(draw B in the air)  
(touch tummy)

**Ride A Little Pony**  
Ride a little pony  
Down to town,  
Better be careful  
You don’t fall down.  
(jog baby up and down on your knees)  
(let baby slip a little way between your knees)
Tick Tock Clock
Tick tock, tick tock. (rock child from side to side)
I'm a little cuckoo clock.
Tick tock, tick tock, Stop! (stop rocking)
What time is it? It's one o'clock!
Cuckoo! (bounce child up once – or lift in air)

Tick tock, tick tock.
I'm a little cuckoo clock.
Tick tock, tick tock. Stop!
What time is it? It's two o'clock!
Cuckoo! Cuckoo! (bounce child up twice)

Continue a few more times

Two Little Houses
Two little houses,
Closed up tight. (close fists)
Let’s open the windows,
And let in some light. (open fists)

Eazy Peazy
Eazy peazy, nice and easy, (hold baby’s hands together)
Stretch your arms (gently stretch arms out)
And bend your kneesy. (hold baby’s legs below the knees, gently bend them up to chest)

I Wiggle
Wiggle your way through this song until you’re sitting quietly at the end!

I wiggle my fingers,
I wiggle my toes,
I wiggle my shoulders,
I wiggle my nose,
Now no more wiggles,
Are left in me,
So I will be still,
As still as can be.
Wiggly Is a Wee Wee Worm
Wiggly is a wee wee worm, (hold up index finger)
Who wiggles everywhere, (wiggle finger around)
Can you keep your eyes on it, (wiggle finger left, then to the right)
As it wiggles here and there?

Wiggly starts down at my toes, (wiggle finger near toes)
And wiggles way up to my nose! (wiggle finger up to nose)
It wiggles back down without a peep, (wiggle finger down to waist)
Creep into my pocket and goes to sleep. (head on hands, eyes closed)

The Wide-Eyed Owl
Here’s a wide-eyed owl, (form circles around eyes with fingers)
With a pointed nose, (use finger to extend nose)
And claws for toes, (curl fingers like claws in front of chest)
It lives high in a tree, (clasp hands high above head)
When it looks at you, (form circles around eyes with fingers)
It flaps its wings, (bend elbows, flap arms)
And says, “Whoo, whoo-oo-o!” (make owl sounds)

Roly Poly
Roly poly, roly poly, (roll hands around each other)
Up, up, up (make your arms go over your head)
Roly poly, roly poly, (roll hands around each other)
Out, out, out (extend arms out horizontally)
Roly poly, roly poly (roll hands around each other)
Clap, clap, clap (clap hands with each word clap)
Roly poly, roly poly (roll hands around each other)
Lay them in your lap (fold hands in lap)
Simple Songs & Fingerplays that can be sung

**Are You Sleeping?**
Are you sleeping?
Are you sleeping?
Brother John, Brother John?
Morning bells are ringing,
Morning bells are ringing.
Ding! Dong! Ding!
Ding! Dong! Ding!

Frère Jacques
Frère Jacques
Dormez-vous? Dormez-vous?
Sonnez les matines, sonnez les matines
Din, din, don! Din, din, don!

¿Fray Felipe, Fray Felipe?
¿Duermes tú? ¿Duermes tú?
Suenan las campanas.
Suenan las campanas.
Din, dan, don. Din, dan, don.

**Head and Shoulders**
(suit actions to words)
Head, shoulders, knees and toes
Knees and toes
Head, shoulders, knees and toes
Knees and toes
Eyes and ears and mouth and nose
Head, shoulders, knees and toes
Knees and toes
**Baby Bumblebee**

I'm bringing home a baby bumblebee,
Won't my mommy be so proud of me,
I'm bringing home a baby bumblebee,
Ouch! It stung me!

I'm squishing up the baby bumblebee,
Won't my mommy be so proud of me,
I'm squishing up a baby bumblebee,
Ooh! It's yucky!

I'm wiping off the baby bumblebee,
Won't my mommy be so proud of me,
I'm wiping off the baby bumblebee,
Uh-oh, I'm all dirty.

I'm scrubbing off the baby bumblebee,
Won't my mommy be so proud of me,
I'm scrubbing off the baby bumblebee,
All clean!

(Cup hands together as if holding bee)
(Shake hands as if just stung)
('Squish' bee between palms of hands)
(Open up hands to look at 'mess')
(Wipe hands off on shirt)
(Look at self with a disgusted face)
(Scrub body to clean off bumblebee)
(Hold hands up to show they are clean)

**Here We Go**

Here we go up, up, up.
Here we go down, down, down.
Here we go forward and backward
Here we go round, round, round

(raise baby up in the air)
(lower baby down)
(move forward, move backward)
(spin)

**Itsy Bitsy Spider**

The itsy bitsy spider
Went 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.

(with hands pretend to make spider)
(make “spider” go up)
(wiggle fingers as they come down as rain)
(and make washing movement)
(make a circle with arms)
(and “dry” with hands)
(make spider again that goes up)

**The Little Green Frog**

Gunk, gunk went the little green frog one day.
Gunk, gunk went the little green frog.
Gunk, gunk went the little green frog one day.
And his eyes went ahh, ahh, gunk.
(circle your fingers around your eyes and stick out your tongue)
Mary Had a Little Lamb
Mary had a little lamb, little lamb, little lamb.
Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow.

Everywhere the Mary went, Mary went, Mary went,
Everywhere that Mary went,
The lamb was sure to go.

It followed her to school one day, school one day, school one day.
It 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.

And so the teacher turned it out, turned it out, turned it out.
And so the teacher turned it out,
But it lingered near.

And waited patiently about, patiently about, patiently about.
And waited patiently about,
‘Till Mary did appear.

“Why does the lamb love Mary so? Mary so, Mary so?”
“Why does the lamb love Mary so?”
The eager children cry.

“Why Mary loves the lamb, you know! Lamb, you know, lamb, you know!”
Why Mary loves the lamb, you know!”
The teacher did reply.

Miss Mary Mack
Miss Mary Mack, Mack, Mack
All dress in black, black, black
With silver buttons, buttons, buttons
All down her back, back, back.
She asked her mother, mother, mother
For fifteen cents, cents, cents
To see the elephants, elephants, elephants
Jump the fence, fence, fence.
They jumped so high, high, high
They touched the sky, sky, sky,
And they didn’t come back, back, back
‘till the fourth of july, -ly, -ly.
**Mister Sun**
Oh, Mister Sun, Sun, Mister Golden Sun
Won’t you please shine down on me?
Oh, Mister Sun, Sun, Mister Golden Sun
Hiding behind that tree.
These little children are asking you
To please come out so we can play with you.
Oh, Mister Sun, Sun, Mister Golden Sun,
Won’t you please shine down on me?

**My Thumbs are Starting to Wiggle**
*Tune: For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow*
(suit actions to words)
My thumbs are starting to wiggle,
My thumbs are starting to wiggle,
My thumbs are starting to wiggle,
Around, around, around.

Other verses:
My hands are starting to wiggle...
My arms are starting to wiggle...
My head is starting to wiggle...
Now all of me is wiggling...

**Open, Shut Them**
*Tune: Frère Jacques /Are you Sleeping*
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.

Creep them, creep them.
Slowly creep them.
Right up to your chin.

Open up your little mouth,
But do not let them in.
**Pat-a-Cake**

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker’s man
Bake me a cake as fast as you can.
Roll it,
And pat it,
And mark it with B
And put it in the oven for baby and me

*clap hands together*

*roll hands over each other*

*pat hands together*

*draw B in the air*

*touch tummy*

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**The More We Get Together**

The more we get together,
Together, together.
The more we get together,
The happier we’ll be.

For your friends are my friends,
And my friends are your friends.
The more we get together,
The happier we’ll be

---

**Tiny Tim**

I had a little turtle
His name was Tiny Tim.
I put him in the bathtub
To see if he could swim.

He drank up all the water.
He ate up all the soap.
And now he's sick in bed
With bubbles in his throat.
Bbbbbbb!

*Cup hands together.*

*Put hands down on floor.*

*Pretend to swim.*

*Pretend to drink.*

*Pretend to gobble soap.*

*Lay head on hands.*

*Vibrate lips together.*

Bbbbbbb!

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**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.
**Wheels on the Fire Truck**
The wheels on the truck go round and round, round and round, round and round.
(make circular motions with arms/roll arms)
The wheels on the truck go round and round, all through the town.

The siren on the truck goes whoo, whoo, whoo; whoo, whoo, whoo; whoo, whoo, whoo
(make flashy motions with hands)
The siren on the truck goes whoo, whoo, whoo, all through the town.

The ladder on the truck goes up and down, up and down, up and down,
(use hand/arm to make up and down motion)
The ladder on the truck goes up and down, all through the town.

The hose on the truck goes whoosh, whoosh, whoosh; whoosh, whoosh, whoosh; whoosh, whoosh, whoosh
(pretend to be putting out a fire)
The hose on the truck goes whoosh, whoosh, whoosh, all through the town

**Where is Thumbkin?**
Where is thumbkin? (hands behind back)
Where is thumbkin?
Here I am. Here I am. (bring out right thumb, then left)
How are you today sir? (bend right thumb)
Very well, I thank you. (bend left thumb)
Run away. (put right thumb behind back)
Run away. (put left thumb behind back)

Continue with more fingers: “pointer”, middle (“tall one”), ring (“ringo”), “pinky”

**A Little Seed**
*To the tune of “I’m a Little Teapot.” – or just say it as a chant*
A little seed I plant in the ground, (pat “seed” into “ground”)
A little rain comes sprinkling down, (wiggle fingers to the ground)
A little sun comes shining through, (form circle around head with arms)
I pick a flower just for you! (pick “flower” & hold it in front of you)
A Caterpillar Crawled

A caterpillar crawled, (Creep fingers up one arm)
To the top of the tree.
“I think I’ll take a nap,” says he. .
So under a leaf he began to creep (Place one hand over opposite fist)
To spin his cocoon, And he fell asleep. .

All winter long he slept in his bed
‘Til spring came along one day and said,
“Wake up, wake up, little sleepyhead,
Wake up, it’s time to get out of bed.” (Shake fists with other hand)
So he opened his eyes that sunshiny day.
Lo! He was a butterfly, and flew away. (Spread fingers, hook thumbs)
(Flap hands as wings and fly away)

Five Green and Speckled Frogs

Five green and speckled frogs (hold up 5 fingers)
Sat on a speckled log (hold above your other horizontal arm)
Eating some most delicious bugs (pretend to eat bugs)
Yuuuuuummmm! Yum! (Spreading your hands)

One jumped into the pool, (hold up one finger, hop off log & fall down)
Where it was nice and cool,
Then there were 4 green speckled frogs (hold up 4 fingers)
Glib Glib

Continue counting backwards until there were no green speckled frogs
Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went out one day
Over the hills and far away.
Mama duck called with a “quack, quack, quack.”
Four little ducks came swimming back.

Four little ducks went out one day
Over the hills and far away
Mama duck called with a “quack, quack, quack.”
Three little ducks came swimming back.

Three little ducks went out one day
Over the hills and far away
Mama duck called with a “quack, quack, quack.”
Two little ducks came swimming back.

Two little ducks went out one day
Over the hills and far away
Mama duck called with a “quack, quack, quack.”
One little duck came swimming back.

One little duck went out one day
Over the hills and far away
Mama duck called with a “quack, quack, quack.”
But no little ducks came swimming back.

No little ducks went out one day
Over the hills and far away
Mama duck said, "Quack, quack, quack, quack,"
and all five ducks came waddling back.

Resources:

*The Eentsy, Weentsy Spider: Fingerplays and Action Rhymes* by Joanna Cole and Stephanie Calmenson
*Finger Rhymes*, collected and illustrated by Marc Brown
*¡Pío Peep! Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes* by Alma Flor Ada & F. Isabel Campoy