



# Crawl Space Fingerplays:

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## Rhymes, Songs & Short Stories

### **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  
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# Fingerplay Rhymes

## Five Little Fingers

One little finger standing on its own.  
Two little fingers, now they're not alone.  
Three little fingers happy as can be.  
Four little fingers go walking down the street.  
Five little fingers.  
This one is a thumb.  
Wave bye-bye 'cause now we are done.

(hold up index finger)  
(hold up middle finger)  
(hold up ring finger)  
(hold up all fingers)

(hold up four fingers and thumb)  
(wave bye-bye)

## Here Are My Ears

Here are my ears  
Here is my nose  
Here are my fingers  
Here are my toes

(point to ears)  
(point to nose)  
(show fingers on hand and wiggle them)  
(point to toes)

Here are my eyes  
Both open wide  
Here is my mouth  
With white teeth inside

(point to eyes)  
(with hands make open wide motion)  
(point to mouth)  
(smile and show "white teeth")

Here is my tongue  
That helps me speak  
Here is my chin  
And here are my cheeks

(point to mouth/tongue)  
(point to chin)  
(point to cheeks)

Here are my hands  
That help me play  
Here are my feet  
For walking today

(wave hands)  
(point to feet/stomp/walk/making stepping motions)

## Here Is a House

Here is a house built up high,  
With two tall chimneys reaching the sky.  
Here are the windows.  
Here is the door.  
If we peep inside  
We'll see a mouse on the floor.

(stretch arms up touching fingertips like a roof)  
(stretch arms up separately)  
(make a square shape with your hands)  
(knock)  
(move fingers like a running mouse)

## 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.

## 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.

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

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 up your little mouth,  
But do not let them in.

(On 'Open', place both hands in front of you, palms facing away and opening them wide. On 'shut them', clench hands into fists.) // (clap)

(Starting at the tummy, slowly 'creep' fingers up toward the face.)

(open mouth)  
(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,  
Who wiggles everywhere,  
Can you keep your eyes on it,  
As it wiggles here and there?

(hold up index finger)  
(wiggle finger around)  
  
(wiggle finger left, then to the right)

Wiggly starts down at my toes,  
And wiggles way up to my nose!  
It wiggles back down without a peep,  
Creep into my pocket and goes to sleep.

(wiggle finger near toes)  
(wiggle finger up to nose)  
(wiggle finger down to waist)  
(head on hands, eyes closed)

## The Wide-Eyed Owl

Here's a wide-eyed owl,  
With a pointed nose,  
And claws for toes,  
chest)  
It lives high in a tree,  
When it looks at you,  
It flaps its wings,  
And says, "Who, whoo-oo-o!"

(form circles around eyes with fingers)  
(use finger to extend nose)  
(curl fingers like claws in front of  
  
(clasp hands high above head)  
(form circles around eyes with fingers)  
(bend elbows, flap arms)  
(make owl sounds)

## Roly Poly

Roly poly, roly poly,  
Up, up, up  
Roly poly, roly poly,  
Out, out, out  
Roly poly, roly poly  
Clap, clap, clap  
Roly poly, roly poly  
Lay them in your lap

(roll hands around each other)  
(make your arms go over your head)  
(roll hands around each other)  
(extend arms out horizontally)  
(roll hands around each other)  
(clap hands with each word clap)  
(roll hands around each other)  
(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!

(Cup hands together as if holding bee)

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!

(Shake hands as if just stung)

('Squish' bee between palms of hands)

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.

(Open up hands to look at 'mess')

(Wipe hands off on shirt)

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!

(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.

(On 'Open', place both hands in front of you, palms facing away and opening them wide. On 'shut them', clench hands into fists.) // (clap)

(Starting at the tummy, slowly 'creep' fingers up toward the face.)

(open mouth)  
(Just as it looks like you're going to put fingers into mouth, quickly run fingers back down body toward tummy.)

## 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)

## 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.

(Cup hands together.)  
  
(Put hands down on floor.)  
(Pretend to 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.  
Bbbbbbbb!

(Pretend to drink.)  
(Pretend to gobble soap.)  
(Lay head on hands.)  
(Vibrate lips together.)  
Bbbbbbbb!

## 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)

# Short Stories

## A Caterpillar Crawled

A caterpillar crawled,  
To the top of the tree  
“I think I’ll take a nap,” says he.  
So under a leaf he began to creep  
To spin his cocoon, And he fell asleep.

(Creep fingers up one arm)

.  
(Place one hand over opposite fist)

.

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.”  
So he opened his eyes that sunny day.  
Lo! He was a butterfly, and flew away.

(Shake fists with other hand)

(Spread fingers, hook thumbs)

(Flap hands as wings and fly away)

## Five Green and Speckled Frogs

Five green and speckled frogs  
Sat on a speckled log  
Eating some most delicious bugs  
Yuuuuuummmm! Yum!

(hold up 5 fingers)

(hold above your other horizontal arm)

(pretend to eat bugs)

One jumped into the pool,  
Where it was nice and cool,  
Then there were 4 green speckled frogs  
Glib Glib

(hold up one finger, hop off log & fall  
down)

(hold up 4 fingers)

*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.

(hold hand out to show # of ducks)  
(have one arm make a moving motion that  
goes over the “hill”)

(make the number of ducks with fingers  
and “swim” them 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.

Repeat Actions Until Done

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 ducks 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.

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### Resources:

*The Complete Book of Rhymes, Songs, Poems, Fingerplays and Chants*, by Jackie Silberg and Pam Schiller.

*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