

# FINGER PLAY FOR TODDLERS



## **Learning is a Partnership**

Parents are a child's first and most important teacher, you play an important role in helping children your child succeed in school. You don't need special skills or tools. Just talking and asking questions builds vocabulary, helps with reading, writing and the thinking skills you need in school and life.

Raising readers and math thinkers is a partnership between home, school, and the community. Learning can happen anywhere, anytime, all we need to do is encourage it.

## **Simple Tips for Learning Success**

- Talk to your child, encourage them to ask questions;
- Sing songs, and share rhymes;
- Make books a part of everyday life. Snuggle up and read;
- Make connections between signs, labels, pictures and words;
- Use math language throughout the day (numbers, shapes, sizes, up, down, right, left, under, over, near, far);
- Encourage drawing. Pictures represent words. Scribbling turns into lines and line into letters;
- Encourage imagination. Pretending builds confidence.

## This Is The Way

(Show motions as you sing to the tune of Here We Go  
Round the Mulberry Bush)



This is the way we brush our teeth,  
*Brush our teeth, brush our teeth.*

This is the way we brush our teeth,  
on a warm and sunny morning.

This is the way we wash our face,  
*wash our face, wash our face.*

This is the way we wash our face  
on a warm and sunny morning.

This is the way we comb our hair,  
*comb our hair, comb our hair.*

This is the way we comb our hair,  
on a warm and sunny 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,  
on a warm and sunny morning.

# I'm A Little Teapot



I'm a little teapot, (Stand still)  
short and stout. Here is my handle,  
(Put hand on hip)  
here is my spout. (Extend other arm)  
When I get all steamed up, hear me  
shout. (Bend to side of extended arm)  
"Just tip me over, and pour me out."

# Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear

(Do actions as indicated)



Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn around,  
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, touch the ground.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, show your shoe,  
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, that will do!

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, go upstairs,  
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, say your prayers.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn out the light,  
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, say good-night!

## Two Little Feet Go Tap



Two little feet go tap, tap, tap. (Tap feet)

Two little hands go clap, clap, clap.

(Clap hands)

A quick little leap up from my chair. (Stand up quickly)

Two little arms reach high in the air.

(Stretch arms high)

Two little feet go jump, jump, jump. (Jump)

Two little fists go thump, thump, thump.

(Pound fists)

One little body goes round and round.

(Twirl around)

And one little child sits quietly down.

(Sit down)

# Wiggle, Waggle



Fingers like to wiggle, waggle,  
wiggle, waggle, wiggle, waggle.

Fingers like to wiggle, waggle,  
right in front of me.

2nd verse ends: High above my head.

3rd verse ends: Almost on the floor.

## With My Little Broom



With my little broom I *sweep, sweep, sweep.*  
On my little toes I *creep, creep, creep.*  
With my little eyes I *peep, peep, peep.*  
On my little bed I *sleep, sleep, sleep.*



# What Do You Suppose?



What do you suppose?

A bee sat on my nose.

(Land tips of fingers & thumb on nose)

Then what do you think?

He gave me a wink (Wink your eyes)

and said, "I beg your pardon,

I thought you were the garden!"

# The Beehive



Here is the behive. Where are the bees?

Hiding away where nobody sees.

Watch them come creeping out of the hive;

One, two, three, four, five.

(Interlock both hands to make a behive;

“Creep” fingers out one by one to fly about)

# Two Little Dicky Birds



Two little dicky birds sitting on a wall  
(Hold up a finger for each bird)  
One named Peter, one named Paul.  
Fly away Peter, fly away Paul.  
(Put fingers behind your back)  
Come back Peter, come back Paul.

**Slowly, Slowly!**



Slowly, slowly, very slowly,  
creeps the little snail.

Slowly, slowly, very slowly,  
up the wooden rail.

Quickly, quickly very quickly,  
runs the little mouse.

Quickly, quickly, very quickly  
round about the house.

# Flowers Grow



Flowers grow like this. (Cup hands)  
Trees grow like this. (Spread arms)  
I grow, (Jump up and stretch)  
just like that!

## A Mouse Lived In A Little Hole



A mouse lived in a little hole.  
(Curl one hand around the other)  
Lived softly in a little hole.  
When all was quiet as can be. (Sh!)  
When all was quiet as can be. (Sh!)  
(Said very quietly!)  
Out popped HE! (Hand pops out of fist)

## Building Vocabulary – Why you can't skip reading today

Source: Nagy & Herman 1987

- If you read for 20 minutes a day, 3,600 minutes in one school year, you will have read over 1,800,000 words.
- If you read for 10 minutes a day, 1,800 minutes in one school year, you will have read over 1,000,000 words.
- If you read for 5 minutes a day, 900 minutes in a school year, in one year you will have read over 1,000,000 words.
- If you read for 1 minute a day, 180 minutes in a school year, in one year you will have read just over 8,000 words.

Which child would you expect to have a better vocabulary?  
Which child would you expect to be more successful in school ...  
and in life?



**Everyone is a reader.  
Some just haven't found their favourite book yet.**

## **Raising Readers and Math Thinkers Outreach Team**

### **The Dartmouth Learning Network**

200-260 Wyse Road, Dartmouth, NS B3A 1N3  
(902) 463-9179  
@DartmouthLearn  
[www.dartmouthlearning.net](http://www.dartmouthlearning.net)

### **Dr. Geneviève Boulet**

Associate Professor, Coordinator, Curriculum Studies  
Mount St. Vincent University Bachelor of Education Program  
166 Bedford Highway, Halifax, NS B3M 2J6  
@MSVU  
[www.msvu.ca](http://www.msvu.ca)

### **First Book Canada**

36-1200 Aerowood, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 2S7  
866-393-1222  
@FirstBookCanada  
[www.FirstBookCanada.org](http://www.FirstBookCanada.org)

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