MORE RHYMES & SONGS
For Babies and Toddlers
The Power of Rhymes & Songs

Children have a natural love of rhymes and songs. But what is it that they like about them, and why is it so important that we use them?

Rhymes and songs encourage bonding! When parents hold, rock, and touch their babies as they say the rhymes and sing songs, the close physical contact establishes an emotional bond.

Rhymes and songs lead to language development! The strong rhythm of rhymes and songs helps babies absorb the pattern of language. Babies are introduced to a rich vocabulary, and they have the opportunity to learn new words.

Rhymes and action songs also build memory skills, motor skills, and early literacy skills. They inspire creativity, and on top everything, they're a whole lot of fun!

Enjoy this collection of rhymes and songs with your child, and remember to visit your local library branch to find great books about ABCs, 123s, colours and shapes.

To learn even more rhymes and songs, join the Library's Baby Rhyme Time and Time for Twos programs. Information about all of our programs is available on the Library’s website at winnipeg.ca/library, or pick up a copy of the library newsletter, @ THE LIBRARY, available online and at all branches.

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The Ponies are Walking

The ponies are walking, they’re walking along
Walking along, walking along,
The ponies are walking, they’re walking along
   Slowly bounce baby on your knee.
Whoa! Whoa! Whoa!
   Lean baby back.
The ponies are trotting they’re trotting along
Trotting along, trotting along
The ponies are trotting, they’re trotting along
   Quickly bounce baby on your knee.
Whoa! Whoa! Whoa!
   Lean baby back.

No expensive toys required! Babies learn best through playful interactions with their caregivers.
Mix and Stir

Mix and stir and pat in the pan
  Take baby’s hands and make stirring motion, then pat baby’s tummy.
I’m going to make a gingerbread man
  Trace outline of baby’s shape on head and shoulders with index fingers.
With a nose so neat
  Touch baby’s nose.
And a smile so sweet
  Trace a smile on baby’s mouth.
And gingerbread shoes on his gingerbread feet.
  Pat baby’s feet.

Round and Round the Garden

Round and round the garden
Like a teddy bear.
  Draw a circle on baby’s tummy.
One step, two step,
Tickle you under there!
  Walk fingers up for a tickle under baby’s arm.
The Grandfather Clock

The grandfather clock goes
Tick tock, tick tock, tick tock, tick tock,
    Sway baby slowly from side to side.
The kitchen clock goes
Tick tock, tick tock, tick tock, tick tock,
    Sway a little faster.
And Mommy's little watch goes
Tick-tick-tick-tick-tick-tick
    Jiggle or tickle.
Stop!

Ten Galloping Horses

Ten galloping horses rode through the town.
Five were white and five were brown.
    Bounce baby on your knee.
Five rode up and five rode down.
    Pull your knees up to ride high, then lower them again.
Ten galloping horses rode through the town!
    Bounce baby on your knee.
Nursery rhymes can be played anywhere, anytime: in a grocery store line-up, at the doctor’s office, or on the change table!

Two Little Eyes

Two little eyes to look around.
   Touch baby’s eyes.
Two little ears to hear each sound.
   Touch baby’s ears.
One little nose to smell what’s sweet.
   Touch baby’s nose.
And one little mouth that likes to eat.
   Touch baby’s mouth.
Body movements like rowing, bouncing, dancing and clapping help babies develop motor skills!

Chicken in the Barnyard

Chicken in the barnyard, staying out of trouble.

Draw a little circle in baby’s palm.

Along came a turkey,

Slowly creep fingers up baby’s arm.

And... “Gobble, gobble, gobble!”

Tickle baby’s underarm, or move in for a gobble on baby’s neck.
This is My Mother

This is my mother.
   Wiggle baby’s thumb.
This is my father.
   Wiggle baby’s index finger.
This is my brother tall.
   Wiggle baby’s middle finger.
This is my sister.
   Wiggle baby’s ring finger.
This is the baby.
   Baby finger.
Oh, how I love them all!
   Kiss fingertips.

Here is a Nest for a Bluebird

Here is a nest for a bluebird,
   Cup hands.
And here is a hive for a bee,
   Fold hands together in a ball.
Here is a hole for a bunny,
   Form circle with fingertips and thumbs touching.
And here is a house for me.
   Make a peaked roof and hold over baby’s head.
The Cuckoo Clock

Tick tock, tick tock,
I'm a little cuckoo clock.
Tick tock, tick tock,
Now the time is one o'clock.
Cuckoo!
   Lift baby in the air once.
Tick tock, tick tock,
I'm a little cuckoo clock.
Tick tock, tick tock,
Now the time is two o'clock.
Cuckoo! Cuckoo!
   Lift baby in the air twice.
Tick tock, tick tock,
I'm a little cuckoo clock.
Tick tock, tick tock,
Now the time is three o'clock.
Cuckoo! Cuckoo! Cuckoo!
   Lift baby in the air three times.
Baby’s Nap

This is a baby ready for a nap.

Hold out your index finger.

Lay him down in a loving lap.

Lay finger down in baby’s palm.

Cover him up so he won’t peep.

Wrap baby’s fingers around your index finger.

And rock him till he’s fast asleep.

Rock finger back and forth.

This Little Train

This little train ran up the track.

It went, “Toot, toot,”

And then came back.

Run fingers up one arm and back down again.

This little train ran up the track.

It went, “Toot, toot,”

And then came back.

Repeat actions with the other arm.
Up Down, Turn Around

Up, down,
   Hold baby’s hands up in the air, then down to the floor.

Turn around,
   Roll baby’s hands.

Touch the sky,
   Hands up in the air again.

Touch the ground.
   Hands down to the floor again.

Wiggle fingers,
   Touch baby’s fingers.

Wiggle toes,
   Touch baby’s toes.

Wiggle shoulders,
   Touch baby’s shoulders

Say hello!
   Wave hands.
Slowly, Slowly, Very Slowly

Slowly, slowly, very slowly
Creeps the garden snail
Slowly, slowly, very slowly
Up the garden rail
  Slowly creep fingers up baby’s arm or leg.
 Quickly, quickly, very quickly
Runs the little mouse.
Quickly quickly, very quickly
Up into his house!
  Quickly run fingers around baby’s tummy and up his underarm or some other ticklish spot.

Songs and nursery rhymes introduce babies to many new words!
Here’s a Cup

Here’s a cup,
    Make a cup with one hand.
And here’s a cup,
    Make a cup with the other hand.
And here’s a pot of tea.
    Bring two hands together.
Pour a cup,
    “Pour into one hand.
And pour a cup,
    “Pour” into other hand.
And drink it up with me!
    Pretend to sip from a cup.

I’m Toast in the Toaster

I’m toast in the toaster
I’m getting very hot
    Gently bounce baby.
Tick, tock, tick, tock
    Sway side to side.
Up I pop!
    Lift baby up in the air.
Hickory Dickory Dock

Hickory dickory dock,
The mouse ran up the clock.
   Walk two fingers up baby’s arm like a pair of legs.
The clock struck one,
   Give baby a kiss on the nose.
The mouse ran down,
Hickory dickory dock.
   Run fingers back down the same arm.

Roly Poly

Roly poly, roly poly
Up, up, up...up, up, up
   Roll baby’s hands around each other, then
   Stretch up and up and up
Roly poly poly, roly poly poly
Down, down, down...down down, down.
   Roll baby’s hands, then stretch down and
down and down.
Singing naturally slows down words, and makes it easier for babies to hear the patterns and rhythm of language!

Row Row Row Your Boat

Rock baby back and forth.
Take baby’s hands and row.

Row, row, row your boat

Gently down the stream

Merrily merrily merrily merrily

Life is but a dream

Row, row, row your boat

Gently down the stream

If you see a crocodile

Don’t forget to scream, aaahh!
Zoom Zoom Zoom

Zoom zoom zoom, we're going to the moon.
Zoom zoom zoom, we're going to the moon.
If you want to take a trip,
Climb aboard my rocket ship.
Zoom zoom zoom, we're going to the moon.
5-4-3-2-1, Blastoff!
   Gently lift baby high in the air!

Two Little Bluebirds

Two little blue birds sitting on a hill
   Hold up both index fingers.
One named Jack, and one named Jill
   Hold up one finger, then the other.
Fly away Jack, fly away Jill,
   First one “bird” flies behind your back, then the other.
Come back Jack, and come back Jill.
   Bring back one “bird,” and then the other.
A Smooth Road to London Town

A smooth road to London town
A smooth road to London town
    *Gently bounce baby on your knee.*
The road goes up and the road goes down
    *Raise and lower your knees.*
A smooth road to London town.
But....by and by we come to a dell
There the roads are not so swell
A bumpy road, a bumpy road, a bumpy road
to London town.
    *Bounce baby up and down.*

A smooth road.....

But...by and by we come to a wood
There the roads are not so good
A bumpy road, a bumpy road, a bumpy road
to London town.
    *Bounce baby up and down.*
Pat-a-Cake

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker’s man,
Bake me a cake as fast as you can.
   Take baby’s hands and clap.
Roll it, and pat it, and mark it with a B,
   Roll baby’s hands, pat baby’s palm, draw a B.
And put it in the oven for baby and me!
   Gently pat baby’s tummy.

Repeat the rhymes that your baby likes best!
Soon, your baby will be saying them back to you!
ROOTS OF READING