Rhymes
For Babies and Toddlers
A collection of rhymes for babies and toddlers…and the people who love them!

Sharing rhymes with your child is a wonderful way to share the joy of learning new words and sounds! Teaching your baby or toddler the gestures to act out a rhyme will teach your child that learning and fun can happen at the same time.

You are your child’s first and most important teacher. When you spend time together repeating rhymes, you are helping her to develop important language skills: talking, listening, asking questions, giving answers, guessing the next word and predicting the next action are skills necessary for growing children to be successful learners.

Even if your baby is too young to speak words, he will learn to communicate by watching and listening to you. Over time, hearing the same rhymes repeated often, babies will respond with sounds, facial expressions and body movements. Your child will delight in being the focus of your attention and affection!

Discover new rhymes and stories by participating in the library’s Baby Rhyme Time and Time for Twos programs. For information about locations, schedules and pre-registration, please visit the Library website at winnipeg.ca/library or pick up a copy of the library newsletter, @ THE LIBRARY, available at all branches.

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Please note: All actions (rocking, bouncing, tickling, etc.) should be performed in a gentle manner that is appropriate for the individual child’s age and personality.

**Acka backa**

Acka backa soda cracker,
Acka backa boo.
  *(rock, swing or bounce child)*
Acka backa soda cracker,
Up goes you!
  *(lift child up into the air)*

Acka Backa soda cracker,
Acka backa boo.
  *(rock, swing or bounce child)*
Acka backa soda cracker,
I love you!
  *(pick up and give child a hug)*
Tommy Thumbs

Tommy thumbs up and
(thumbs up)
Tommy thumbs down,
(thumbs down)
Tommy thumbs dancing
(thumbs up and bouncing to the right)
All around the town.
(bounce thumbs to the left)
Dance ‘em on your shoulders,
(bounce thumbs on shoulders)
Dance ‘em on your head,
(bounce thumbs on head)
Dance ‘em on your knees
(bounce thumbs on knees)
Tuck them into bed.
(fold arms hiding hands)

Fee Fi Fo Fum

Fie, fie, fo, fum
(point to fingers, one by one)
See my fingers,
(wiggle fingers)
See my thumbs.
(wiggle thumbs)
Fie, fie, fo, fum
Fingers gone –
Now the thumbs.
(wiggle fingers and thumbs, then hide behind back)
Wibbleton to Wobbleton

From Wibbleton to Wobbleton is 15 miles,
From Wobbleton to Wibbleton is 15 miles,
Wibbleton to Wobbleton,
Wobbleton to Wibbleton,
From Wobbleton to Wibbleton is 15 miles.
(bounce child to rhythm of the verse)

Mother and Father and Uncle John

Mother and Father and Uncle John,
(bounce child)
Went to market, one by one.
(continue to bounce)
Mother fell off,
(tilt way to the left holding child)
And Father fell off,
(tilt way to the right holding child)
But Uncle John went on and on and on…
(Bounce child on and on and on…)

Knees and toes...
Two Little Dicky Birds

Two little dicky birds, sitting on a wall
(hold up both index fingers)
One named Peter,
(hold up left index finger)
One named Paul,
(hold up right index finger)
Fly away Peter!
(hide left index finger behind your back)
Fly away Paul!
(and hide right index finger behind your lap)
Come back Peter,
(hold up left index finger)
Come back Paul.
(and hold up right index finger)

Here is the Beehive

Here is the beehive,
(Close hands)
Where are the bees?
(Look at fist)
Hidden away where nobody sees.
Soon they come creeping
Out of the hive,
(Open hand, one finger at a time)
1,2,3,4,5
The Apple Tree

Way up high in the apple tree
   (stretch arms up)
Two little apples peeked at me
   (peek out from behind fingers)
I shook that tree as hard as I could
   (pretend to shake tree trunk)
And down came the apples
   (bring arms down/or fall to the ground)
Mmmm, they were good!
   (pat tummy)

Jolly Giant

Here is a giant who is tall, tall, tall.
   (stretch way up)
Here is an elf who is small, small, small.
   (scrunch down low)
But the elf who is small will try, try, try.
   (stand up slowly reaching up)
To reach to the giant who is high, high, high.
   (stretch up high, on tiptoes)

Knees and toes...
These are Grandma’s Glasses

These are Grandma’s glasses,
(make circles around eyes with pointer finger and thumb)
This is Grandma’s hat;
(place hands in triangle shape on head)
Grandma claps her hands like this,
(clap)
And rests them in her lap.
(put hands together on lap)

These are Grandpa’s glasses,
(as above)
This is Grandpa’s hat;
(as above)
Grandpa folds his arms like this,
(fold arms)
And takes a little nap.
(pretend that you are sleeping)
I Saw a Snake

I saw a snake go by today,
  (make fingers into sunglasses)
Driving in his Chevrolet.
  (make steering-wheel actions)
He was long,
  (show length with arms stretched apart)
And he was thin,
  (show pointer finger)
But he didn’t have a chin.
  (touch chin)
Didn’t have a chin?
But what the heck,
  (throw arms up)
He had lots and lots of neck!
  (roll hands out from under your chin, one after the other)
Here Comes a Mouse!

Here comes a mouse
   (make fist into a ‘mouse’)
Squeak, squeak, squeak
He is tiny and soft
   (pet mouse)
And has little pink feet.
   (tickle child’s feet)

He runs up your leg
   (run fingers up child’s leg)
Then under your arm
Tickle-y, tickle-y
   (tickle child under arms)
He means you no harm.

Little Rabbit

I saw a little rabbit go hop, hop, hop.
   (hop 3 times)
I saw his two long ears go flop, flop, flop.
   (using hands for ears, flop them 3 times)
I saw his little nose go twink, twink, twink.
   (wiggle nose 3 times)
I saw his little eyes go blink, blink, blink.
   (blink eyes 3 times)
I said “little rabbit, please won’t you stay?”
But he looked right at me, and hopped away.
   (hop away)
Baby in the Cradle

Baby in the cradle goes rock, rock, rock.
   (rock child)
The clock on the dresser goes tick, tick, tock.
   (move index finger back and forth)
The rain on the window goes, tap, tap, tap.
   (tap finger)
But here comes the sun so we clap, clap, clap!
   (clap hands)

The Moon is Round

The moon is round as round can be.
   (circle finger around child’s face)
Two eyes, a nose, and a mouth like me!
   (gently point to eyes, nose and mouth)
**Jack Frost Nose**

Where did you get that little red nose?

\(\text{gently wiggle nose with fingers}\)

Jack Frost kissed it I suppose.

He kissed it once \(\text{kiss baby’s nose}\)

He kissed it twice \(\text{kiss baby’s nose}\)

Poor little nose, it’s as cold as ice

**Chubby Little Snowman**

A chubby little snowman

\(\text{arms around your big belly}\)

Had a carrot nose

\(\text{point to nose}\)

Along came a bunny

\(\text{fingers pointed like bunny ears…hop, hop}\)

And what do you suppose?

\(\text{fingers still like ears, stop hopping}\)

That hungry little bunny

\(\text{peer to the left}\)

Looking for his lunch

\(\text{peer to the right}\)

Ate that snowman’s nose with a

\(\text{grab carrot nose and hold to mouth}\)

Nibble…nibble…CRUNCH!

\(\text{munch carrot…jump up with hands high on ‘CRUNCH’!}\)
Jelly in the Bowl

Jelly in the bowl, jelly in the bowl,
Wibble wobble, wibble wobble,
Jelly in the bowl.
(wiggle about like jelly)

Cookies in the tin, cookies in the tin,
Shake ’em up, shake ’em up,
Cookies in the tin.
(pretend to shake a cookie jar)

Candles in the cake, candles in the cake,
Blow ‘em out, blow ‘em out,
Candles in the cake.
(blow out the candles)

Here We Go Up-Up-Up

Here we go up-up-up.
And here we go down-down-down.
And here we go back-and-forth-and-back-and-forth.
And here we go around and around and around
(move child by lifting and lowering, or adults cross legs and sit child on raised foot and follow the rhyme for actions)
Knees and toes...
**Row, Row, Row Your Boat**

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!
AAAAhhhhh! *(scream)*

**Here’s a Ball**

Here’s a ball
*(form circle with two hands)*
And here’s a ball,
*(move hands apart)*
And a great big ball I see.
*(form large circle with arms)*
Shall we count them?
Are you ready?
One, two three!
*(repeat shapes)*
Head and Shoulders

Head and shoulders,
   *(place hands on head, then shoulders)*
Knees and toes,
   *(knees and toes)*
Knees and toes,
   *(repeat action)*
Knees and toes.
   *(repeat action)*
Head and shoulders,
   *(place hands on head, shoulders)*
Knees and toes,
   *(repeat knees and toes)*
Eyes, ears, mouth and nose.
   *(point to eyes, ears, mouth and nose)*

Sing this verse to the tune of ‘London Bridge is Falling Down’. Repeat over and over, quickening the pace each time.

*Eyes, ears, mouth and nose.*
ROOTS OF READING