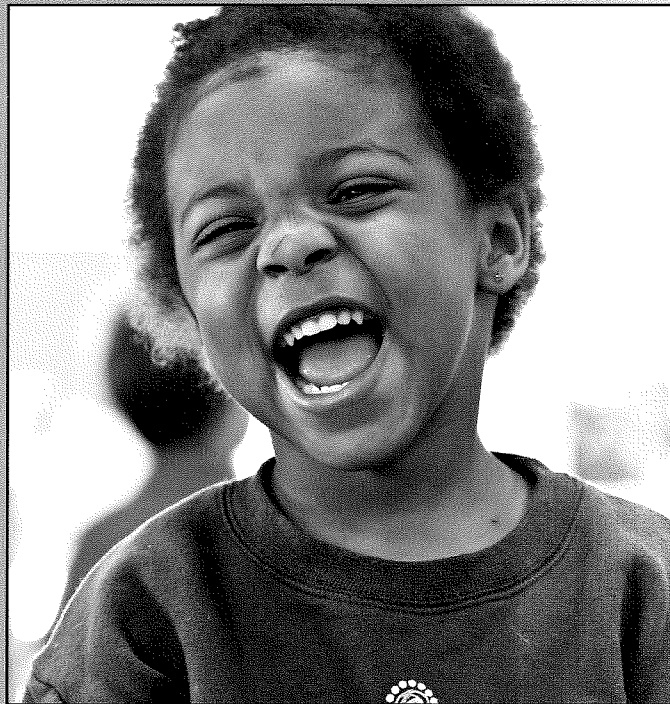




Let's Sing!



The Value of Songs and Fingerplays

In your table group, discuss the benefits of singing songs and doing fingerplays with children.

List your ideas.

Strategies for Singing Songs and Doing Fingerplays With Children

1. Sing songs with simple melodies and repetitive words or phrases.
2. Sing songs and do fingerplays that allow children to choose different words and actions.
3. Simplify songs and fingerplays (that is, use words and actions that make sense to children).
4. Separate the words and actions. Practice the actions first.

Songs to Familiar Tunes

Everybody Follow Joey (tune: "Mary Had A Little Lamb")

(Joey chooses a way to move in place)

Everybody follow Joey, follow Joey, follow Joey.

Everybody follow Joey. He's the leader now.

Now It's Time to Pick Up the Toys (tune: "Mulberry Bush")

Now it's time to pick up the toys, pick up the toys, pick up the toys.

Now it's time to pick up the toys, so we can have our lunch.

Everybody Put Your Hands in the Air (tune: "Buffalo Gals")

Everybody put your hands in the air, hands in the air, hands in the air.

Everybody put your hands in the air, and say hello to **Rita**.

(Rita chooses another body part to hold up and wave.)

Create your own song to a familiar tune:

Building Choice Into Children's Songs

- ◆ **Voice quality:** Sing with a high voice, then with a low voice. Ask children how a song might sound if they sang it with a “mouse voice,” a “monster voice,” or a “sleepy voice.” Ask children for other ideas.

- ◆ **Volume:** Sing songs loudly, then softly.

- ◆ **Speed (tempo):** Sing a song very slowly, then repeat it, singing it a little faster each time.

- ◆ **Words or actions:** Create a new version of a favorite song by changing key words or actions.

Examples:

- Change the words of “Wheels on the Bus” to “Wings on the Airplane.” Ask children to name other vehicles to sing about.

- Instead of singing “Old MacDonald Had a Farm,” sing “Old MacDonald Had a Jungle,” or “Old MacDonald Had a Zoo.”

Your Ideas for Adding Choices to Songs

1. Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the stream
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily
Life is but a dream

Ideas for adding choice:

2. The Muffin Man

Do you know the muffin man
The muffin man, the muffin man
Do you know the muffin man
Who lives on Drury Lane?

Ideas for adding choice:

3. Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed

Five little monkeys jumping on the bed
One fell off and bumped his head
Momma called the doctor and the doctor said
No more monkeys jumping on the bed!

Ideas for adding choice:

4. I Had a Little Turtle

I had a little turtle
He lived in a box
He swam in the water
He climbed on the rocks

He snapped at a mosquito
He snapped at a flea
He snapped at a minnow
He snapped at me!

Ideas for adding choice:

5. Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went out one day
Over the hill and far away
Mother duck said, "Quack, quack, quack."
Four little ducks came waddling back.

(Repeat the song, reducing number of ducks by one each time)

Ideas for adding choice:

Teaching Songs to Children

Separate: When introducing a song or fingerplay, introduce the motions and review the words separately rather than presenting the motions and words to children at the same time.

Simplify: Use *words* and/or *actions* that make sense to children. If the song or activity involves a movement sequence, present each motion individually before putting the motions together. Also, use words that children understand. For example, use “one hand” and “the other hand” rather than “left hand” and “right hand.”

1. Choose an action song or fingerplay that you know well or choose an action song or fingerplay from pages 7–9.

2. Practice your song or fingerplay using the ideas of *separate* and *simplify*.

Action Songs and Fingerplays

Chubby Little Snowman

A chubby little snowman

(Hold your arms in a circle to make a fat belly.)

Had a carrot nose.

(Point your forefinger out from your nose.)

Along came a bunny

(Make a bunny with your fingers.)

And what do you suppose?

That hungry little bunny

(Rub your tummy.)

Looking for his lunch

Ate that snowman's carrot nose

Nibble, nibble, CRUNCH!

(Pretend to eat the carrot.)

Open, Shut Them

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

Creep them, creep them

Right up to your chin

Open wide your little mouth

But do not let them in!

Wheels on the Bus

The wheels on the bus go 'round and 'round
'Round and 'round
'Round and 'round
The wheels on the bus go 'round and 'round
All through the town.

(People go up and down; wipers go swish, swish, swish; babies go wah, wah, wah.)

Rags

I've got a dog and his name is Rags
He eats so much that his tummy sags
His ears flip, flop and his tail wig, wags
And when he walks
He goes zig, zag.

He goes flip flop, wig, wag, zig zag
He goes flip flop, wig wag, zig zag.
He goes flip flop, wig wag, zig zag
I love Rags and he loves me.

Sticky Bubble Gum

Sticky, icky, icky, icky bubble gum
Bubble gum, bubble gum
Oh, sticky, icky, icky, icky bubble gum
Makes my hands stick to my **knees**.

(Substitute other parts of the body.)

Five Little Seashells

Five little seashells lying on the shore
Swish went waves and then there were four

Four little seashells pretty as can be
Swish went the waves and then there were three

Three little seashells all pearly new
Swish went the waves and then there were two

Two little seashells lying in the sun
Swish went the waves and then there was one

One little seashell lying all alone
I picked it up and took it home.

Down on Grandpa's Farm

Down on grandpa's farm there was a big pink pig
Down on grandpa's farm there was a big pink pig
And the pig, it made a noise like this...*oink, oink*
The pig, it made a noise like this...*oink, oink*
Oh, we're on our way, we're on our way, on our way to grandpa's farm
Oh, we're on our way, we're on our way, on our way to grandpa's farm.

(Substitute other animals.)

Implementation Plan

1. One song or fingerplay I will introduce to my child/children is

2. I would like to try to give children choice by