



Washington County
Cooperative Library Services

Rhyme, Sing, Play!



Helping kids get ready to read is simple!

You already TALK, SING, SHARE BOOKS, and PLAY with your kids! These are some of the best ways to help them get ready to read.

TALKING with your children helps them learn words and how language works.

SINGING slows down language and develops vocabulary.

SHARING BOOKS every day builds a love of reading.

PLAYING is how children learn and practice ideas and language!

Rhymes, songs, and games help babies and kids build language — and have fun!

Your library staff shared some favorite rhymes in this book. Use them to sing, chant, or play with your children however you like!

For a video playlist of these rhymes, visit www.wccls.org/ready-read or scan the QR code on the last page.



WAY UP HIGH IN AN APPLE TREE

This rhyme can be done lifting a baby up and down to suit the words

Way up high, in an apple tree

stand and be a tree or point up a tree

two red apples smiling down at me

two fists up in the air

I shook that tree as hard as I could!

shake yourself or make a circle with your arms and shake them

Down fell the apples,

fists fall to ground

mmmm!

They were good!

eat apple and
rub tummy

*Repeat with
other fruits*



BABY BABY DUMPLING

**Baby baby dumpling,
put them in a pot.**

**Butter them, sugar them,
and eat them while they're hot.**
cuddle, "butter," sprinkle, and
"nibble" baby

OPEN SHUT THEM

**Open them, shut them,
open them, shut them,
give a little clap clap clap.**

**Open them, shut them,
open them, shut them,
lay them in your lap lap lap.**

**Creep them, creep them,
slowly creep them,
right up to your chin chin chin.**

**Open wide your
little mouth...
but do not let
them in!**



SALLY GO 'ROUND THE SUN

Sally go round the sun,
Sally go round the moon,
Sally go round the stars,
every afternoon.

BINGO

There was a farmer had a dog and
Bingo was his name-o,
B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O,
and Bingo was his name-o.

There was a farmer had a dog and
Bingo was his name-o,
clap instead of saying the first letter
clap **I-N-G-O**, clap **I-N-G-O**,
clap **I-N-G-O**,
and Bingo was his name-o.
keep replacing letters
with claps



TALL AS A TREE

Tall as a tree.

stand up and reach up high

Wide as a house.

stretch out arms and legs

Thin as a pin.

stand tall, as thin as you can

Small as a mouse.

curl up small

Tall as a tree, how tall can you be?

Wide as a house, how wide can you be?

Thin as a pin, how thin can you be?

Small as a mouse, how small can you be?



RIDING ON A SMOOTH ROAD

Riding on a smooth road, a smooth road, a smooth road,
bounce child gently on lap
riding on a smooth road — but what's that ahead?

Riding on a bumpy road, a bumpy road, a bumpy road,
bounce child bumpily on lap
riding on a bumpy road — but what's that ahead?

Riding on a rough road, a rough road, a rough road,
bounce child vigorously on lap
riding on a rough road — but what's that ahead?!

A hole!

gently “drop” child
between your legs or
lean them back



PEASE PORRIDGE HOT

Pease porridge hot,
pease porridge cold,
pease porridge in the pot,
nine days old.

Some like it hot,
some like it cold,
some like it in the pot,
nine days old.



HERE IS THE BEEHIVE

Here is the beehive.

make a fist with one hand, and
cover it with the other

Where are the bees?

Hidden inside where nobody sees.

Watch as they come out of the hive!

1-2-3-4-5!

lift up your hand, and open your fist
to show your fingers

WIGGLE WIGGLE FINGERS

Wiggle, wiggle, fingers,
way up to the sky.

Wiggle, wiggle, fingers,
wave them all goodbye.

Wiggle, wiggle, fingers,
curl them in a ball.

Wiggle, wiggle, fingers,
but do not let them fall...

KERPLUNK! KERPLUNK! KERPLUNK!

I LIKE A COLOR

I like a color, yes I do,

I like a color, yes I do,

I like a color, yes I do,

here's a rhyming clue for you: bed!

What color rhymes with bed?

That's right: red!

*for each new color give a rhyming
clue, such as "shoe!" for "blue"*



5 IN THE BED

There were 5 in the bed and the little one said roll over, roll over.

So they all rolled over and one fell out. Plop!

There were 4 in the bed and the little one said roll over, roll over.

So they all rolled over and one fell out. Plop!

There were 3 in the bed...

There were 2 in the bed...

There was 1 in the bed and the little one said good-night, good-night!

THE MOON IS ROUND

The moon is round as round can be. trace finger around face

Two eyes, a nose and a mouth like me. point to eyelids, nose and lips



DUMP TRUCK

Dump truck, dump truck

bumping down the road,

bounce baby on lap

spilling gravel with our heavy load!

rock baby back & forth on lap

Dump truck, dump truck

bumping down the road,

bounce baby on lap

spilling gravel,

rock baby back & forth on lap

and now it's time to DUMP!

tip baby backward, or lift in air



SLOW SNAIL

Slowly, slowly, very slowly creeps the little snail, walk fingers up arm
slowly, slowly, very slowly up the wooden rail. pause at top for suspense

Quickly, quickly, very quickly runs the little mouse, run fingers around child's belly

quickly, quickly, very quickly to the little house.
slip fingers under child's arm and tickle or hug



WALKING WALKING

tune: Are You Sleeping

Walking, walking, walking, walking.

Hop hop hop! Hop hop hop!

Running running running!

Running running running!

Now let's stop. Now let's stop.

THE 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.

The doors on the bus go open
and shut,
open and shut, open and shut.

The doors on the bus go open
and shut
all through the town.



The horn on the bus goes
beep-beep-beep, beep-beep-beep,
beep-beep-beep.

The horn on the bus goes beep-beep-
beep all through the town.

The babies on the bus go wah-wah-
wah, wah-wah-wah, wah-wah-wah!

The babies on the bus go wah-wah-
wah all through the town.

The grown-ups on the bus go shh-shh-
shh, shh-shh-shh, shh-shh-shh.

The grown-ups on the bus go shh-shh-
shh all through the town.

HECKETY PECKETY BUMBLEBEE

name game

Heckety Peckety Bumblebee,

will you say your name for me?

clap, pat, whisper and shout out
children's names on the beat

O-ly-vi-a

clap, clap, clap, clap

O-ly-vi-a

pat, pat, pat, pat knees

O-ly-vi-a

whisper on the beat

Olyvia!

throw hands up in air



TICK TOCK

Tick tock, tick tock, I'm a little cuckoo clock.

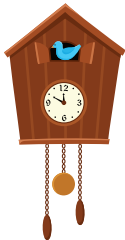
Tick tock, tick tock,
now the time is one o'clock.

Cuckoo!

lift baby into the air
older kids can jump up

Now the time is...

continue with two, three, four
and five o'clock



WAKE UP HANDS

Wake up hands, wake up hands,
wake up hands and
wiggle, wiggle, wiggle!

Wake up hands, wake up hands,
wake up and wiggle in the morning!

*continue with toes, elbows, ears,
me, etc.*

I LOOK LIKE THIS

I look like this when I'm happy,

I look like this when I sigh.

I look like this when I'm sleepy,

I look like this when I cry.

I look like this when I'm angry,

I look like this when I'm sad.

I look like this when I'm curious,
and I look like this when I'm glad.

HELLO BUBBLES

Hello bubbles, hello bubbles
come and land, come and land
right in the middle, right in the middle
of my hand, of my hand.

Goodbye bubbles, goodbye bubbles
time to go, time to go
I will help you, I will help you
with a blow, with a blow.

ZOOM ZOOM ZOOM

bounce baby on your lap;
or child acts out words

Zoom, zoom, zoom

we're going to the moon,

zoom, zoom, zoom

we're going to the moon.

If you'd like to take a trip

**climb aboard the
rocket ship!**

Zoom, zoom, zoom

we're going to the moon.

5-4-3-2-1

bounce slowly and
say numbers

Blastoff!

lift baby up



JELLYFISH

Jellyfish, jellyfish, jellyfish, jelly.

wave fingers

Jellyfish, jellyfish, jellyfish, jelly.

wave fingers with wrists together

*repeat rhyme and add actions:
elbows together, knees together,
toes together, bottom out,
and tongue out*



SILLY HAT

tune: This Old Man

On my head I wear a hat.

**It is such a silly hat
that my head will wiggle,
wiggle to and fro.**

Where else should my silly hat go?

*repeat, putting hat on knee,
foot, etc.*

TOMMY THUMBS

Tommy thumbs are up
and Tommy thumbs are down,
Tommy thumbs are dancing
all around the town.

Dance them on your shoulders,
dance them on your head,
dance them on your knees
and tuck them into bed.

*repeat with names for each finger,
then all the fingers*

FE, FI, FO, FUM

Fe, fi, fo, fum,
see my fingers,
see my thumb.

Fe, fi, fo, fum,
goodbye fingers,
goodbye thumb!



TEDDY BEAR, TEDDY BEAR

Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn around.

Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the ground.

Teddy bear, teddy bear, reach up high.

Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the sky.

Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch your toes.

Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch your nose.

Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch your head.

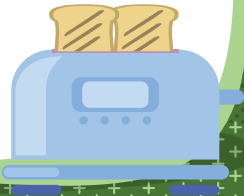
Teddy bear, teddy bear, time for bed.

TOAST IN THE TOASTER

I'm toast in the toaster.

I'm getting very hot.

Tick tock, tick tock,
up I pop!



JUMP INTO BED

Jump into bed, turn out the light.

click tongue

Very quietly say, "Good night."

lay head on hands

But! Underneath my tiny bed

sit up, finger raised

I hear a funny noise instead!

hand behind ear

Roll way over and take a peek...

lean over and peer

Now there's a dinosaur that I see!

Jump out of bed! Open the door!

pretend to open the door

And say to the dinosaur,

"Stay no more!" shake finger

Close the door and lock it!

pretend to close the door

repeat, asking

children what else

they see under the bed



POLLITO CHICKEN

Pollito, chicken,
gallina, hen,
lápiz, pencil
and pluma, pen.

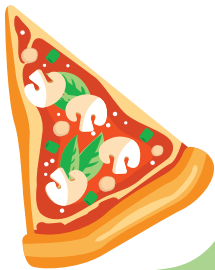
Ventana, window,
puerta, door,
maestra, teacher
and piso, floor.

PIZZA PICKLE PUMPERNICKEL

Pizza, pickle, pumpernickel.

My little one shall have a tickle.

One for their nose,
one for their toes,
and one for their
tummy where
the cracker goes!



MAMA'S SLEEPING

tune: Skip to My Lou

begin quietly:

Mama's sleeping, don't wake her up. 3x

Let's be very quiet.

loudly:

Wake up, Mama, it's time to play! 3x

Let's be very noisy!

*change to children / grown-ups /
pets / etc. are sleeping...*

SO EARLY IN THE MORNING

**This is the way we wave hello,
wave hello, wave hello.**

**This is the way we wave
hello, so early in the morning.**

repeat with comb our hair,
brush our teeth, wash our face,
stretch up tall...



WHO IS HIDING?

Who is hiding, who is hiding?

Who can it be, who can it be?

Let's find out, let's find out!

Look, it's me! Look, it's me!

try hiding behind a scarf.

ICKA BICKA SODA CRACKER

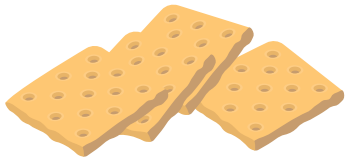
Icka bicka soda cracker,

Icka bicka boo!

Icka bicka soda cracker,

Up with you!

repeat with "Down with you!"



For more rhymes and fun activities to do with your child, visit your local Washington County library, scan the code below, or go to wccls.org/ready-read



To the best of our ability, we have included only rhymes that are in the public domain.

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