

10 little fingers and 10 little toes



I hear & I forget-see & I remember-I do and I understand-Chinese proverb... Children have to involve their bodies as well as their minds in order to understand the world & experiences. If he may not engage his body, As well as his mind, he will switch off. Ambrose... Childhood Should be a Journey-Not a Race... Childhood Is life's 1st gift. Play it for all it's worth. Play it often. Play to know: Discovery, wonderment & delight. All children are gifted. Some just open their presents later than others... Unknown

There was 1 little baby who was born far away and another who was born on the very next day. And both of those babies, as everyone knows, had 10 little fingers & 10 little toes. Mem Fox

Fingerplays are a way of telling a story, yet so much more is going on behind those simple words. When children watch the actions, their minds are working to process and understand the motions. With everything right at your fingertips, a simple rhyme becomes an intimate time together. A whole world opens up of interaction, sharing, laughter, hugs and too much fun.

Research supports an interactive and experiential process of learning spoken and written language skills that begins in early infancy. Early literacy development is a continuous developmental process that begins in the first years of life.

Fingerplays provide multisensory learning engaging visual, auditory and motion. The child who is an auditory learner will be just as engaged as the child who is a visual learner.

There are benefits for the adult too. Helps strengthen the adult-child bond, providing a simple fool-proof way to interact, with baby on center stage. It can also provide a connection to one's past, stirring memories and passing them on to the next generation.

Families used to spend time in the kitchen on the front porch, where Grandma and Grandpa would pass the music and traditions on to the next generation. Often young teachers are at loss for appropriate materials.

What you do is the most important job I know of. Children learn about love, safety & trust from you. Thank you for what you do.

Finger Plays & Massage-See web site, workshop handouts for tummy time (rock-bye babies) & activities

- Help in development of early speech, rhythm and timing, dramatization skills, small motor, coordination of hand-foot movement and body awareness, self-expression.
- Provide opportunities for sequencing (pre-reading skill) and digit individuation to isolate 1 finger singly and group fingers.
- Enhance attention span and listening skills.
- Provide rhythm in speech and music and encourage verbal participation.
- Develop hand and finger strength and coordination, necessary for holding and controlling a pencil.
- Encourage communication and touch between adult and child.
- Unclench tight little fists. *Eve Kodiac*
- Tickles to stimulate response and promote separateness.
- Help practice pincher movement

Rhymes & Peek A Boo

- Provide basis for development of good listening skills. Words supported by the action.
- Encourage mental images-develop vocabulary for creative thinking-make new connections.
- Pleasure from coordination hand-foot or body movements with rhythm of the verse.
- Aware of hands and feet before fingers and toes....Peek-a-boo exercise in object permanence. *Eve Kodiac*

The Genius of Natural Childhood and The Well Balanced Child-Sally Goddard Blythe, unless otherwise noted. Tummy Time-Moving-Lullabies-Bedtime-Stories-Babies Workshop Handout

We see the world clearly when we're children and then spend the rest of our lives trying to remember what we saw. Garrison Keiler... I am one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something & because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do something that I cannot do. Helen Keller... We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop. Mother Teresa

Gari Stein...Music For Little Folks...little-folks-music.com...Garistein@aol.com...FB
Music For Little Folks

Six Pre-literacy Skills

Narrative skills. Talk about what you are doing as you go through your day

Vocabulary. Speak clearly, encourage babbling, attempts at saying words; point to pictures, objects and name them.

Letter knowledge. Help children see shapes and name them, read alphabet books and say the names of letters; point out letters on toys, food boxes, and other places.

Phonological awareness. Use songs and nursery rhymes to help young children learn the sounds of language; add actions to the sounds

Print motivation. Begin reading right from birth; make book sharing a special time and visit the library often to find appealing books.

Print awareness. Use board/cloth books, let child hold the book; read aloud every day; point out labels, signs, and other sources of print & read outloud.

Babies and Early Literacy

- Babies learn about language right from birth.
- Reading, singing, and using nursery rhymes and language play throughout the day teaches children about the sounds .of language.
- It is helpful, but unless at risk, it's not critical, if children have the six pre-literacy skills when they begin school.
- When children are prepared for school, they are much more likely to succeed.

Let us realize that the privilege to work is a gift. The power to work is a blessing and the love of work is success. David O. McKay...Childhood Should Be a Journey...Not a Race...Source Unknown.Music is the essence of order and lends itself to all that is good, just and beautiful. Plato

Fingerplay Facts

Fingerplay Fact 1: Fine Motor Skills

“Way up High in the Apple Tree” helps young children to focus on each finger and the movement of their hands and fingers as they act out each part of the fingerplay. The development of fine motor skills can be reinforced by introducing a broad range of fingerplays to your children but they won't know that they are exercising those small muscles. Instead, they will be just enjoying the process of moving their hands and fingers along with you.

Fingerplay Fact 2: Listening skills

As young children use their fingers and hands to represent or act out the words and actions in a fingerplay such as “I Had a Little Red Balloon,” they must listen to the story told within the fingerplay so they will know when it is time to blow up their balloon, when to make their balloon larger and larger, and when it is time to “Pop!” Children learn to listen to one another and to the teacher as they focus on saying each phrase of the rhyme, acting it out together, and anticipating when they are supposed to clap their hands and say “Pop!”.

Fingerplay Fact 3: Pre-Reading Skills

When you have a really short fingerplay where each line is repeated often, take the time to write the fingerplay out on large chart paper or a dry erase board. Having the fingerplay available to view in printed form will help the children begin to relate the printed words to the words they have now become familiar enough to say and act out. A fingerplay such as “Five Little Popcorn Seeds” is perfect for creating predictable print since the only change in the rhyme is the number word. Having the words of a fun and well loved fingerplay available in printed form and adding a picture, where possible, to illustrate key words in the rhyme will help the children to view the printed words as something fun and familiar.

Fingerplay Fact 4: Creating Community

As young children participate together in singing, chanting, and acting out fingerplays, they feel a sense of happiness working and being together. When using songs like the “Hello Song” the children feel a sense of belonging and as you look at the children while singing, they know that they are a valued member of their community.

Fingerplay Fact 5: Large Motor Skills

As young children use their full bodies to act out the actions of a fingerplay, they are working to develop large motor skills such as balance and squatting or stretching. Fingerplays and simple rhymes can add an element of active play into your circle time or anytime of the day which keeps little bodies moving and stretching while at the same time, building the ability to cognitively and physically control those large motor movements. As the children prepare to “pop” up at the end of “Five Little Popcorn Seeds,” mentioned above they must keep their balance and listen for that important cue that tells them it is time to “pop!” As the children work together to rock back and forth in “Row Your Boat” they must also work to keep their balance and coordinate their bodies to work together in a timely fashion.

Source: <http://www.teachpreschool.org/2013/09/15-fabulous-fingerplays-and-facts/>

Down in the Meadow (Baby on back)

(Scissor legs)

Down in the meadow in an itty bitty pool.

(Knees to Chest)

Swam 3 little fishies and a mama/daddy fish too.

(Legs up & down like swimming)

Swim said the mama, swim if you can.

(Circle legs-rotating hips)

And they swam and swam all over the dam.

(Cross left over right & right over left)

Boop, boop, Ditta-datta. What-em Shoo! (3) (KISS)

(Circle legs, rotating hips)

And they swam and they swam all over the dam.