

Take a look at more fingerplays and action rhymes

Fingers on the Move

Dora, an early childhood specialist, consults in a classroom of 2-year-olds. She sees a teacher with a group of three children in the free play area looking a little lost. With permission from the teacher, Dora suggests playing a new game. As she starts wiggling her fingers, Dora asks the children if they like to play games with their fingers. The toddlers start wiggling their fingers too. She puts her hands behind her back and starts singing "Where Is Thumbkin?" She brings out her thumbs when it is time. As she does this fingerplay, two of the toddlers pick up the idea and start doing the motions. When they finish, the children want to do it again. As they start the fingerplay over, Dora helps them get their fingers moving in the correct ways.



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Jay's home visitor comes to visit him and his mom weekly. At 20 months of age, Jay enjoys spending his time running, being chased, and using his body. Jay also has a sister who is 3 years old and just as active. One summer day when she arrives, the home visitor watches them running around in the yard. She suggests that their mother teach the children some action rhymes. Mom knows Ring Around the Rosies, so they decide to try it. The children keep on chasing each other around. Their mom suspects that if she asks them to stop they will just get more energized. The home visitor and Mom decide to just start doing the activity by themselves. The two children notice by the second time the adults go through the rhyme. Both Jay and his sister come over to see what they are doing and join in the action rhyme.

Even More Fun!

Luke has cerebral palsy, which sometimes makes it hard for him to get his fingers to make all of the motions for some fingerplays. Still, he very much likes to do them. His mom knows the importance of fingerplays in encouraging the development of language and rhyming. With Luke's home visitor, Mom modifies the finger motions so that Luke can do them. For Eensy-Weensy Spider, instead of touching each finger together, Luke and his mom just touch their hands together as they raise their arms. They bring down their arms when they say "Down came the rain." They swing their arms in front of them when they say "And washed the spider out." With "Out came the sun and dried up all the rain," they lift their arms high in a circle. Next, with "The eensy-weensy spider climbed up the spout again," they touch their hands together as they lift them up high.

