



What is Fingerplay?

Exploring the world of language is fun when fingerplays are a child's learning tool. Fingerplays let young children enjoy exploring language in ways that build word skills and use new words. Both are important early literacy skills. Fingerplays are very brief stories—often with rhymes—that use finger movements to help tell the story. Fingerplays introduce rhyming and poetry to young children.



What does fingerplay look like?

When your child recites or sings rhymes and uses her fingers or hands to “act it out,” they are doing fingerplay. Adding finger puppets also adds an element of fun that can further engage your child.



Here are some songs and rhymes you can do together!

Bunny Puppet

Here is a bunny, with ears so funny, *(Raise two fingers.)*

And here is a hole in the ground. *(Make hole with other hand.)*

At the first sound she hears, she pricks up her ears, *(Straighten fingers.)*

And pops right into the ground. *(Put fingers in hole.)*

Homes

A nest is a home for a bird. *(Cup hands to form a nest.)*

A hive is a home for a bee. *(Turn cupped hands over.)*

A hole is a home for a rabbit. *(Make a hole with hands.)*

Where Is Thumbkin?

(Start with hands behind back.)

Where is Thumbkin? Where is Thumbkin? Here I am. *(Bring right hand to front, with thumb up.)*

Here I am. *(Bring left hand to front, with thumb up.)*

How are you this morning? Very well, I thank you. *(Wiggle thumbs as if they're 'talking' together.)*

Run away. *(Hide right hand behind back.)*

Run away. *(Hide left hand behind back.)*

(Repeat rhyme with each finger: Pointer, Tall Man, Ring Man, and Pinkie.)