Rhymes
Songs
and
Finger Plays
for the
First
Four
Years
Growing Like a Read
is an early-learning initiative
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THE BILINGUAL BOOK OF RHYMES, SONGS, STORIES AND FINGERPLAYS
copyright 2004 by Pam Schiller, Rafael Lara-Alecio and Beverly J. Irby.
Price $29.95/$6.00 shipping.
Available from Gryphon House,
Box 207, Beltsville, MD 20704-0207
1-800-638-0928.
B is for Baby 0-18 months
T is for Toddler 18-30 months
P is for Pre-School 30-48 months

These are recommendations only.
Sing or say the rhymes as long as you and your child continue to enjoy them.

The foundations of reading are laid long before a child goes to school.
The rhymes, songs, and stories we teach young children are preparation for reading.
Listening to the sound and rhythms of the words in a nursery rhyme stimulates brain development.
Music and motions further encourage brain development and learning.
Repetition is the key.
The more we talk, play, sing, and read to children, the better their language and reading skills will be.
Pat-a-cake, 
Pat-a-cake, 
baker’s man, 
Bake me a cake 
as fast as you can. 
Pat it, and roll it, 
and mark it with “B”, 
And put it in the oven 
for Baby and me.
Row, Row, Row Your Boat

(Rock)

Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the stream.
Merrily, merrily,
Merrily, merrily,
Life is but a dream.
B Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Pease Porridge

(Clap)

Pease porridge hot,
Pease porridge cold,
Pease porridge in a pot,
Nine days old.
Some like it hot,
Some like it cold,
Some like it in a pot,
Nine days old.
This old man, he played one.
He played knick-knack on my thumb.
(Refrain)
With a knick-knack paddy whack,
give a dog a bone.
This old man came rolling home.
(Repeat refrain for every verse.)
This old man, he played two.
He played knick-knack on my shoe…
(Refrain)

Three…knee…
Four…door…
Five…hive…
Six…sticks…
Seven…up in heaven…
Eight…gate…
Nine…spine…
Ten…
He played knick-knack once again…
**B** Ride a Horsy

*(Bounce)*

Ride a horsey,
Ride to town.
Ride a horsey,
Don’t fall down.

**B-T-P** ABC Song

A, B, C, D, E, F, G,
H, I, J, K, LMNOP,
Q, R, S,
T, U, V,
W, X, Y, and Z.
Now I know my ABCs,
Tell me what you think of me!
B Touch Your Nose

Touch your nose, touch your chin,
That’s the way this game begins.
Touch your eyes, touch your knees,
Now pretend you feel a breeze.
(Blow gently)

Touch your hair, touch one ear,
Touch your two red lips right here.
Touch your elbows where they bend,
That’s the way this touch game ends.
**B Baby’s Nap**

(Use “her” for girl baby.)
(Hold up pointer finger)

Here is a baby, ready for his nap.
(Put finger in baby’s hand)

Lay him down in his mama’s lap.
(Close baby’s fingers around pointer)

Now cover him up so he won’t peep,
(Rock baby’s hand back and forth)

And rock him ‘till he’s fast asleep!

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**B Rock-A-Bye Baby**

Rock-a-bye baby
On the tree top.
When the wind blows,
The cradle will rock;
When the bow breaks,
The cradle will fall;
And down will come baby,
Cradle and all.
B-T  Jack Be Nimble
(Lift for baby; toddlers jump.)
Jack, be nimble,
Jack, be quick,
Jack, jump over the candlestick!

B-T  Jack in the Box
(Lift for baby; toddlers jump.)
Jack in the box, you sit so still.
Won’t you come up?
Yes, I will!
Noble Duke of York  
*Bounce for baby; toddlers march.*

Oh, the noble Duke of York,  
He had ten thousand men.  
He marched them up  
To the top of the hill,  
And marched them down again.  
And when they’re up, they’re up;  
And when they’re down, they’re down;  
And when they’re only half way up,  
They’re neither up nor down.
Two Little Bluebirds

(Make fists with thumbs up.)

Two little bluebirds sitting on a hill:
One named Jack,
The other named Jill.
Fly away, Jack.
Fly away, Jill.
Come again, Jack.
Come again, Jill.

Open Them, Shut Them

Open them, shut them,
Give a little clap.
Open them, shut them,
Put them in your lap.
T  I’m a Little Teapot

I’m a little teapot, short and stout,
Here is my handle, here is my spout.
When I see the teacups, hear me shout:
“Tip me over and pour me out!”

T-P  Here Is the Beehive

Here is the beehive, where are the bees?
Hidden away where no one sees.
Here they come buzzing from the hive!
One-Two-Three-Four-Five!
T-P Five Fat Peas

(Make fist)
Five fat peas in a pea pod pressed.
(Open fingers)
One grew, two grew, and so did all the rest.
They grew and grew and did not stop,
Until one day the pod went POP!
(Clap)

T-P Jumping Beans

(Count fingers)
One, two, three, four,
(Jump)
Beans came jumping through the door.
(Count fingers)
Five, six, seven, eight,
Jumping up onto my plate.
(Jump)
T  If I Had a Pony

(Bounce)

If I had a pony
Upon which I would ride,
I’d keep him in a stable
And stay right by his side.
I’d ride him day by day,
And to him I would say,
Come trot, trot, trot, my pony,
Trot, trot, trot away.
POP Goes the Weasel

All around the cobbler’s bench,
The monkey chased the weasel.
The monkey thought it was all in fun,
POP! goes the weasel.

A penny for a spool of thread,
A penny for a needle.
That’s the way the money goes,
POP! goes the weasel.
T-P Roll Over

There were ten in the bed, and the little one said, “Roll over, roll over!” And they all rolled over, and one fell out.

(Repeat for 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2)

There was one in the bed, and the little one said, “Aaaah, GOODNIGHT!”
There was a little turtle,
Who lived in a box.
He swam in puddles,
And climbed on rocks.
He snapped at the mosquito,
He snapped at the flea,
He snapped at the minnow,
And he snapped at me.
He caught the mosquito,
He caught the flea,
He caught the minnow,
But he didn't catch me!