“...Reading aloud to babies right from the beginning is essential for healthy brain development, as well as growing a reader”.  
(McNeil, 2012, p. 141)
Finger Plays & Rhymes

Round and Round the Garden
(source unknown)

Round and Round the Garden,
like a teddy bear.
One step, two step
Tickle you under there.

(Walk your fingers around your child's palm.
Take steps with your fingers up their arm,
and then tickle their armpit or chin.
Also works with feet!)

I’m a Little Teapot
(Cobb, 1996, p. 96)
(Have parent hold the child and do actions together)

I’m a little teapot,
(stand still)

Short and stout
Here is my handle
(Put hand on hip)

Here is my spout.
(extend other arm)

When I get all steamed up,
Hear me shout.
(bend to side of extended arm)

“Just tip me over,
And pour me out.
Jelly in the Bowl
(Cobb, 1996, p. 96)

Jelly in the bowl, Jelly in the bowl
Wibble wobble, Wibble wobble
(Tip baby side to side)
Jelly in the bowl.

Clap Your Hands
(Silberg & Noll, 2004, p. 182)

Clap, clap, clap your hands
As slowly as you can. (say it slowly)
Clap, clap, clap your hands
As quickly as you can. (say it fast)
2. Shake… (repeat but change clap to shake, and follow action)
3. Roll…
4. Rub…
5. Wiggle your fingers…
6. Pound your fists

Criss Cross Applesauce
(Cobb, 1996, p. 117)

Criss cross applesauce
(Draw an X on the child’s back)
Big squeeze
(Hug child)
Cool Breeze
(Blow on back of child’s neck)
Now you’ve got the shivers!

“Bouncing and rocking is a prerequisite for crawling”
(Silberg, 2008, p. 96)
Dump Truck

(https://dtdlstorytimes.wordpress.com/category/baby-time/page/9/)

(place child on your lap with your legs straight out)

Dump truck, dump truck. (Begin to bounce your legs)
Bumping down the road.
Spilling gravel as we travel
With our heavy load.
Dump Truck, dump truck, DUMP! (Gently tip baby to side)

Rub-a-Dub-Dub (modified)
(Cobb, 1996, p.21)

Rub-a-Dub-Dub
(Rub noses with baby)
Three men in a tub
And who do you think they be?
The Butcher
(Tickle under left arm)
The Baker
(Tickle under right arm)
The candlestick maker
(Tickle baby’s tummy)
And out they jumped all three
(Lift baby up)

Icky Bicky Soda Cracker
(www.kcls.org)

Icky bicky soda cracker
(Arms together)
Icky bicky boo
(Arms apart)
Icky bicky soda cracker
(Arms together)
Up goes you or I Love You
(Lift baby up) or (Hug baby)
Children’s Songs

Raffi

• Wheels on the Bus
• Shake Your Sillies Out

Hap Palmer

• Head, Shoulder Knees and Toes

Wiggleworms

• Ladies Ride
• Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Artist Unknown

• Itsy, Bitsy Spider (numerous artists available. Slow tempo best)
• Clap Your Hands
• Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed

“Schedule storytime programs to last about 20 minutes, each filled with fast-paced action and stimuli broken into short (2- to 4-minute) segments”
(Nichols, 2007, p. 4)
Simply Irresistible: Storytimes for 2 and Under Handout

Favorite Books


This list was created for the Infopeople Project, supported by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.
Additional Resources

Free Resource

• 125 Brain Games for Babies: Simple Games to Promote Early Brain Development by Jackie Silberg

• The Complete Book of Rhymes, Songs, Poems, Fingerplays, and Chants by Jackie Silberg

• Games to Play with Babies by Jackie Silberg

• Jbrary
  www.jbrary.com

Purchase at Demco

• The Very Ready Reading Program Kit Birth-24 mths
Works Cited


it's not “just play”

Play is an essential part of early learning. It is the lifeblood of the learning process. As children play they are developing the cognitive, socio-emotional and physical skills they will need to take them into a successful adulthood.

They are developing their curiosity, problem solving, intentionality, flexibility, and verbal & non-verbal skills.

Socio-emotionally they are developing their emotional intelligence - learning confidence, cooperation, negotiation, sharing, empathy and how to communicate appropriately.

Physically their fine motor and gross motor skills are being practised and developed.

It’s not “just play” they are skills for life!

MHC Early Childhood Solutions