

Fingerplay Fun

Primary Objectives

7a. Uses fingers and hands

Why It's Important

Children love to sing songs and chant rhymes. Simple rhymes and fingerplays will encourage your child to use language in a more interactive way. Using his hands to act out simple stories also helps him grasp the meaning behind his words.

Materials

Words to “Where Is Thumbkin?” song: *Where is Thumbkin? Where is Thumbkin? Here I am! Here I am! How are you today, Sir? Very well, I thank you. Run away. Run away;* words to “Nose, Ears, and Toes” song: *I put my fingers on my nose, on my ears, then on my toes. Now I give my hands a clap, and put my fingers in my lap;* words to “Jack-in-the-Box” song: *This is my box, and this is its top. Open it up, and out Jack pops!*

What You Do

1. Invite your child to join you in a storytelling game. Explain that he will use his fingers to help tell the story.
2. Model each fingerplay and invite your child to follow along. Use any familiar fingerplay songs or rhymes, such as “Where is Thumbkin?,” “Jack-in-the-Box,” or “Nose, Ears and Toes.”
3. Encourage your child to share any fingerplay rhymes that he knows. Allow him to teach the rhyme and movements to you.
4. Share this experience with your child when you have a few minutes for a brief activity.