

Infant and Toddler Activity Pages

Finger Plays

Area of School Readiness

Language and Literacy: According to the Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center, language and literacy involves the communication skills that children need to engage with other people and to learn. This includes receptive language or being able to listen and understand, expressive language, being able to communicate and skill for emerging literacy or being able to read and write.

Materials

Finger plays (itsy bitsy spider, this little piggy went to the market, open shut them, twinkle twinkle little star).

Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development: According to the Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center, perceptual, motor, and physical development includes motor development and health, safety and nutrition. This includes gross motor or large motor skills (like jumping, running, climbing) as well as fine motor or small muscle skills (like holding a fork or buttoning a coat). Health, safety, and nutrition includes skills for self-care (like brushing teeth), knowledge promoting healthy eating habits, and personal safety routines.

Purpose of the Activity

Emergent Literacy: Your child will practice listening to rhymes and phrases from songs or stories.

<u>Fine Motor Skills</u>: Your child will practice using the small muscles in their hands and fingers as they follow along with the finger plays.

Instructions

- 1. Sit with your child.
- 2. Sing these finger plays to your child with the hand motions. Use other songs or stories to sing to your child too!
- 3. Encourage your child to sing and play along. Help them with the hand motions while you are singing to them.
- 4. Try using finger plays during transitions (like when your child is waiting for their bottle to warm up) or when your child has to wait.

Itsy Bitsy Spider:

Itsy bitsy spider climbed up the water spout Down came the rain and washed the spider out Out came the sun and dried up all the rain And the itsy bitsy spider climbed up the spout again

This Little Piggy:

This little piggy went to market, this little piggy stayed home, this little piggy had roast beef, this little piggy had none and this little piggy cried wee wee all the way home.

Open Shut Them:

Open, shut them, open, shut them

Give a little clap

Open, shut them, open, shut them

Lay them in your lap

Creepy crawly, creepy crawly

Right up to your chin

Open up your little mouth

But do not let them in

Roll them, roll them, roll them

Just like this

Wave them, wave them, wave them

Then blow a little kiss

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

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