



CONNECT TO THE CLASSROOM

Rhythm & Rhyme: Fingerplays

During the fingerplay activities, the teacher links words and gestures to create more meaning for children. Fingerplays are rhymes that combine hand movements with a song or chant. Fingerplays are a simple, fun way to actively engage young children in rhythm and rhyme.

Practice these strategies for fingerplay activities on your own:

- Before using the chant, practice the fingerplay along with the video demonstration.
- Make a poster with images of animals or objects in the chant to help children remember the words.
- Add the chant to the back of the poster so that you can easily refer to the words.
- Adjust your facial expressions and the tone and volume of your voice to fit what's happening in the chant. Fingerplay chants often include several feelings such as excitement, anticipation, and confusion.

When you are finished reflect on the following questions:

1 How did the children respond to the chant? What did you say or do to help the children participate?

2 What specific words did you say to encourage children to participate? How did the children respond?

3 Did children mimic your hand movements, sounds, or facial expressions? How did you respond to their participation?

4 What was challenging? What can you do better next time? Try these next time.
