

Finger Plays

HERE ARE THE CANDLES TALL AND WHITE,
Lighting our way to bed at night.
When I am ready I will blow (Who!)
And out the dancing flames will go.

*Palms are raised, the ten fingers stiff and straight.
During Line 4, the fingers curl over to the palm,
indicating that the flame is blown out.*

HERE IS THE BEEHIVE.

Hands together, fingers interlocked
Where are the bees?
Hiding away where nobody sees.

They're coming out now, all alive —
Fingers of one hand 'creep' out of other
One, two, three, four, five.
Fingers 'fly' about

"LITTLE BROWN SPARROWS,
Flying around,
Fingers flutter
Up in the tree-tops,
Hands in the air
Down on the ground,
Hands drop

"Come to my window,
Hands meet above head, fingers flat
Dear sparrows, come!
See! I will give you
Many a crumb.
Scatter' crumbs, rubbing fingertips and thumb together

"Here is some water,
Sparkling and clear;
Hand cupped, palm upward
Come, little sparrows,
Drink without fear.

"If you are tired,
Here is a nest;
Clasp hands leaving hole in middle as nest
Wouldn't you like to
Come here to rest?"

All the brown sparrows
Flutter away,
Raise hands, fluttering fingers
Chirping and singing,
"We cannot stay;

For in the tree-tops,
Among the grey boughs,
There is the sparrows'
Snug little house."

*House: hold hands vertical, palms together, fingers
straight, then open sheltered space between palms*

I HAVE MADE A PRETTY NEST,
Interlock fingers, palms upwards.
Look inside, look inside.

Hungry birdies with their beaks
*Place index fingers and thumbs of each hand together
and 'open and close' them.*
Open wide, open wide.

See my little birdies grow,
Gradually spread hands apart to indicate growth.
Day by day, day by day,

Till they spread their little wings,
Cross arms at the wrist and flap hands.
And then fly away.

Find music on p. 123

COME, SEE ME MAKE A BLACKBIRD'S NEST
With baby birds inside;
Fingers interlocked, palms upward forming nest

Now watch me make these blackbirds' beaks
To open very wide!
*Tips of meeting fingers open and shut. Thumbs are
parent birds watching*

HERE'S A WIDE-EYED OWL
Forefinger and thumb form circle around eyes
With a pointed nose,
Fingers make V down over nose
With pointed ears
Two forefingers up at ears
And claws for his toes.
Curve fingers like claws
He sits high in the tree,
Point up to tree
And when he looks at you
Point to each other
He flaps his wings
Arms flap
And says, 'Who-Who'.

ONCE I SAW A LITTLE BIRD
Come hop, hop, hop.
Hop along two fingers of right hand
I cried, 'Little bird,
Will you stop, stop, stop!'
Halt at last 'stop'

ctd.

UP THE TALL WHITE CANDLE-STICK

Left arm

Creeps little Mousie Brown

Two fingers of right hand

Right to the top, but he can't get down.

So he calls to his Grandma,

Hold hands to mouth, cupped,

"Grandma, Grandma!"

But Grandma is in town.

So he curls himself into a ball,

Left again turned into candle-stick, right fist clenched

And rolls himself down.

Both fists clenched. Roll round each other moving downwards.

THERE'S SUCH A TINY LITTLE MOUSE,

Indicate how small with thumb and forefinger

Living safely in my house.

Place one forefinger into clenched fist

Out at night he'll softly creep,

Creep fingers slowly across table

When everyone is fast asleep:

Rest head on hands

But always in the light of day

Spread hands high and wide for sunrise

He'll softly, softly creep away.

Creep fingers slowly back to rest in other hand

A MOUSE CAME PEEPING,

Hide middle finger of right hand in hole made by left hand; let it peep out at one end

A mouse came creeping;

Two fingers of right hand creep along arm

A mouse crept home

Fingers creep back into hole

And now he is sleeping.

A MOUSE LIVED IN A LITTLE HOLE,

One hand curled inside the other.

Lived softly in a little hole.

When all was quiet as quiet can be (Sh! Sh!),

When all was quiet as quiet can be (Sh! Sh!),

Said very softly.

Out popped HE!

Right hand jumps out of left.

MRS. PUSSY, SLEEK AND FAT,

Right thumb held up

With her kittens four,

Four fingers of right hand without thumb

Went to sleep upon the mat

Fingers and thumb curl into palm

By the kitchen door.

Mrs. Pussy heard a noise —

Up she jumped in glee:

Fingers and thumb open suddenly

"Kittens, maybe that's a mouse!

Let us go and see!"

Creeping, creeping, creeping on,

Fingers and thumb of right hand 'creep' along table

Silently they stole;

But the little mouse had gone

Left thumb horizontal, fingers curled

Back within its hole.

Left thumb disappears into left fist

ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR,

These little pussy cats came to my door.

Hold up four fingers of right hand and count them.

They just stood there and said 'Good day,'

Make fingers bow on 'Good day'.

And then they tiptoed right away.

Walk fingers away over the front of the body and behind the left shoulder.

A LITTLE RABBIT ON A HILL

Hold left hand palm inwards, fingers bent. Hold right hand vertically behind it to form rabbit, two fingers raised as ears

Was jumping up and down.

Indicate rabbit jumping

His fluffy tail was round and white,

One hand with loosely bent fingers and thumb

His pointed ears were brown.

Two fingers raised

But when he heard a tiny sound

His eyes turned black as coal,

His little whiskers trembled, and

Both hands horizontal, fingers trembling

He scuttled down his hole.

Left hand forms hole, right forefinger 'scuttles' into it