



MOTHER GOOSE NEWS—
by Jane Kitson

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WELCOME SPRING!!!

Did I say that loud enough for all of you to hear??? We have had a mild winter; however, I know many of you have had your fill of the white stuff and COLD temperatures!!! Here in Atlanta, my neighbor's daffodils are just now pushing up and peeking out about 3 inches...all around her mailbox. It will soon be time to pull up my pansies and replace them with impatiens and I also look forward to my wall of day lilies in my back yard. Yes, the lazy days by the pool will be just around the corner. If you are in my neck of the woods...do let me know...we always have an extra pool towel and perhaps a swimsuit too! I live in a neighborhood with LOTS of teachers and we enjoy getting re-acquainted over the summer as we visit by the pool...drop by and we will pass you some sweet tea and sun screen.....haha!

I want to share a few spring time activities that are sure to delight the children and also give them the important skills of rhythm, rhyme and repetition.

HERE IS A BRAND NEW WIGGLY IDEA THAT HAS BEEN TESTED ON THE CHILDREN I WORKED WITH IN JANUARY AND PART OF FEBRUARY:

**CLAP YOUR HANDS...
CLAP YOUR HANDS...
STOMP YOUR FEET...
STOMP YOUR FEET...
TOUCH THE
SHOULDER
OF A FRIEND,
WHO'S STANDING NEAR!
SPIN AROUND,
SPIN AROUND...
TOUCH THE GROUND...
TOUCH THE GROUND...
NOW SAY YOUR NAME...
SO EVERYONE CAN HEAR!!!!**

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I have used the above activity with children ages 2-7 and see that the smaller ones are more prone to touch their own shoulder...therefore; you will need to walk among them and show them how to touch a friend's shoulder. We are also tying in math as we are using the spatial word "near". After I have sung it twice with a specific body part, I switch to a new one...replace shoulder with: forehead, elbow, chin and belly button. I like the fact that this appeals to all children as they are learning body parts and sharing their own name, too! You may also substitute the word NAME with: FAVORITE COLOR FAVORITE ANIMAL FAVORITE FOOD BIRTHDAY MONTH (for ages 5 up) And use this as a classifying skill.

Here is a quick movement fingerplay:

A CUTE LITTLE DUCK STEPPED
OUT OF THE LAKE...
(hands on hips)
SHE DRIED HERSELF OFF
WITH A SHAKE, SHAKE, SHAKE!
(wiggle from side to side)
ALL THE DROPS OF WATER
ROLLED OFF OF HER BACK...
(flick fingers out to sides)
AND SHE HEADED THROUGH
THE GRASS...WITH A
QUACK, QUACK, QUACK!!!

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Be sure to read:
MAKE WAY FOR DUCKLINGS
THE STORY ABOUT PING
ONE DUCK STUCK

Here is another quick duck activity, which can be shared easily while the children are sitting down together:

A DUCK IN THE LAKE WITH A
BRIGHT ORANGE BEAK...
(hold right hand like a duck)
DOVE DEEP IN THE WATER
TO FIND A FISH TO EAT...
(dive down hand and "swim"
left hand like a fish)
UP CAME THE DUCK WITH A
QUACK, QUACK, QUACK!
(bring right hand back up)
THAT FISH WAS A YUMMY,
YUMMY SNACK!
(rub tummy and lick lips)
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ANIMALS ARE AMAZING
PUPPET AND CD PACK

If your children are ages 2-3, cut out pictures of snacks from magazines and coupons...then paste these on to paper plates. Put them in the center of the circle and ask each child to choose a picture of a snack they like. Go around the circle and say:
SIDNEY LIKES CARROTS FOR A SNACK!
OLIVER LIKES CHEESE FOR A SNACK!

You will point to each child and ask them to hold up their snack. Soon, the children will be able to join in on the language together. If your children are ages 4-6...have them hold up their picture and tell the group. Then put the picture behind their back and see if the other children can guess and remember what their peers like to eat!
FINALLY...make a class book and either glue a picture of the smaller children and their snack on the same



page or allow the older children to draw themselves and their snack. Provide a page for each children and the bottom line will include:

_____ likes to eat _____
for a snack.

This can be read together several times and then independently, by those who are ready.

THIS REMINDS ME OF ANOTHER IDEA:::

Ask your parents to send in disposable cameras and/or commit to film development. Take pictures each child, front and back. You can use the front picture for the book and the back picture to play guess who.

Show the children the (back view) picture of each friend and ask them to guess who it is. Then, provide the names written out and the children (who are 4-6) can match the names to the picture.

If you have double copies made, you can make a front and back match up book:

Make a book with a page for each child out of construction paper. Laminate each page and glue down one front picture on each page. Hot glue gun a 1 inch Velcro dot next to the front picture. Laminate each of the back pictures and hot glue gun the corresponding Velcro tab onto each back picture. Place all of the back pictures in a Ziploc bag that has been securely taped to the front inside cover of the book. Bind book.

Give the children each a chance to Take out the back pictures and match them with the front pictures by placing them on the Velcro. Write the names on the pages, for the children to "read". This is great for Visual discrimination!

REMINDER...

New e-mail: kit-notes@att.net

New web address:

www.janekitson.com

RAINY DAY IDEAS :

RAIN IS FALLING
RAIN IS FALLING!
FROM THE SKY...
FROM THE SKY...

VS.1
I HAVE MY UMBRELLA!
I HAVE MY UMBRELLA!
I'LL STAY DRY...
I'LL STAY DRY!
(pretend to open umbrella)

VS.2
I ZIP UP MY RAINCOAT!
I ZIP UP MY RAINCOAT!
I'LL STAY DRY!
I'LL STAY DRY!
(pretend to zip up rain coat)

VS.3
I WILL STAY INSIDE TODAY!
I WILL STAY INSIDE TODAY!
I'LL STAY DRY!
I'LL STAY DRY!
(pretend to peek out the window)

Tune:
ARE YOU SLEEPING!
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OPEN YOUR UMBRELLA...
HOLD IT WAY UP HIGH!
(use hand for umbrella)

PITTER PATTER RAIN DROPS
ARE FALLING FROM THE SKY!
(pitter patter hands on thighs)

STOMP RIGHT IN THE PUDDLES...I SEE
THEM ON THE GROUND!
(stomp foot on ground or jump in with feet together)

IT'S RAINING...IT'S RAINING! THERE'S
WATER ALL AROUND!

Everyone loves a picnic and I wanted to share this picnic fingerplay. Start with everyone standing up and finish by sitting down.

WHEN I GO ON A PICNIC...
I SPREAD MY BLANKET WIDE!
(throw out blanket)
I OPEN UP THE BASKET...
TO SEE WHAT'S PACKED
INSIDE.
(fingertips touching with elbows out and then raise palms like a picnic basket and look inside)
I TAKE OUT ALL THE
NAPKINS, THE PAPER CUPS
AND PLATES...
(pretend to take things out and spread them around)
MY GRANDMA PACKED THEM
CAREFULLY... BESIDE THE
BAG OF GRAPES!
(rub palms gently together)
THE SANDWICHES AND
COOKIES... WILL MAKE A
YUMMY TREAT!
(pretend to eat)
COME POUR YOURSELF SOME
LEMONADE... SIT DOWN WITH
ME LET'S EAT!
(mimic pouring and sit down)

Bring in a real picnic basket filled with laminated pictures of food cut out from magazines (sound familiar?) ask each child to reach into the basket and pick up a picture but hold it inside. Then, they will describe the picnic food to the other children:
i.e. these are crunchy and salty
POTATO CHIPS

WINTER IS GONE (almost)
AND SPRING IS HERE...
LET'S STOMP OUR FEET AND
GIVE A CHEER:
HOORAH FOR FLOWERS AND
BUMBLEBEES...HOORAH FOR
ALL THE FRIENDS I SEE!!!

Thank you for being MY
friends...drop me an e-mail!!!