There are six pre-reading skills your child can start learning from birth.

**Print Motivation** (reading is fun) – being interested in and enjoying books.

**Print Awareness** (how books work) – noticing print, knowing how to handle a book and how to follow the words on a page.

**Vocabulary** – knowing the names of things.

**Phonological Awareness** (sounds of letters and words) – being able to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words.

**Narrative Skills** (how to tell a story) – being able to describe things and events, and tell stories.

**Letter Knowledge** (what letters are) – knowing letters are different from each other, and have different names and sounds, and recognizing letters everywhere.
Rhymes and poems, bounces, tickles, fingerplays and movement games are a great way to start helping your child develop these skills — besides being fun, they also enrich your child’s early learning experience by:

- Memory skills
- Vocabulary
- Imagination
- Sense of Humor
- Spatial awareness
- Motor coordination
- Ability to relax

Games, rhymes, wiggles and tickles have inspired laughter and joy in infants, toddlers and young children for generations, strengthening bonds between children and the loved ones in their lives. These are some of our favorites in English, Korean, Spanish and Russian. Each activity includes directions. Once you’ve added these to your lives, ask your librarian for more suggestions, and have fun!
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Bounces

Seat your child on your lap or rest your child with her back to you.
I Bounce You Here
I bounce you here, I bounce you there, (bounce child on knees)
I bounce you, bounce you, everywhere.
I tickle you here, I tickle you there, (gently tickle child)
I tickle you, tickle you, everywhere.
I hug you here, I hug you there, (hug child)
I hug you, hug you, everywhere!

This is the Way the Baby Rides
This is the way the baby rides, (bounce child on knees - with each new verse
The baby rides, the baby rides. bounce child faster)
This is the way the baby rides,
So early in the morning.

This is the way the farmer rides…

This is the way the jockey rides…

Bumpy Road
Smooth Road, Smooth Road. (move child in circular motion on your lap)
Bumpy Road, Bumpy Road. (bounce your child on your lap)
Rough Road, Rough Road. (increase the height and speed of the bounce)
Hole. (gently drop child between your legs)

Giddy Up Horsey
Giddy-up, giddy-up, giddy-up horsey. (bounce child on knees)
Giddy-up, giddy-up, go, go, go.
Giddy-up, giddy-up, giddy-up horsey.
Giddy-up, giddy-up, Whoa! (let child slip through knees)
Did You Ever See a Baby
Did you ever see a baby, (have your child sitting on your lap)
A baby, a baby?
Did you ever see a baby,
Go this way and that? (rock from side to side)
Go this way and that way, (forward and back)
And that way and this way.
Did you ever see a baby,
Go this way and that? (forward and back)

Shoe the Little Horse
Shoe the little horse, (pat child’s left foot)
Shoe the little mare, (pat child’s right foot)
But let the little colt, (bicycle child’s feet around and around)
Run free everywhere.

I’m Bouncing
I’m bouncing, bouncing everywhere, (bounce child on knees)
I bounce and bounce into the air.
I’m bouncing, bouncing like a ball,
I bounce and bounce, then down I fall. (let child slip through knees)

Bumping Up & Down
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon, (bounce child on knees)
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,
Won’t you be my darling?
Let’s Go Riding in an Elevator

Let’s go riding in an elevator. (hold child in front of you on lap)
Let’s go riding in an elevator.
First floor, (at “first floor” start to lift child up
Second floor, rising up a little at each floor)
Third floor,
Fourth floor,
Fifth floor, (by “fifth floor” child should be high,
Doooowwwwwnn! bring child quickly back to lap on “down”)

The Dog Went to Dover

Leg over leg, (with your child on your lap hold on to the ankles
The dog went to Dover. and move the legs in rhythm with the rhyme)
When he came to a wall,
Then he jumped right over. (on the “jumped,” lift up both legs together like
you are making them jump over the wall)

Trit, Trot

Trit, trot to Boston, (bounce baby on your knees)
Trit, trot to Lynn,
Take care, Baby,
Don’t fall IN! (substitute child’s name for “Baby”)
(on “IN,” part knees and let baby slip through)
Tickles and Lovies

Use for quiet times and car rides or to bring smiles and laughter.
**Eye Winker**

Eye winker,  
Tom Tinker,  
Nose smeller,  
Mouth eater,  
Chin chopper,  
Chin chopper,  
Chin chopper,  
Chin chopper, chin.  

(point to eyes)  
(point to ears)  
(point to nose)  
(point to mouth)  
(tap chin)  
(gently tickle under chin)

**Two Little Eyes**

Two little eyes to look around.  
Two little ears to hear each sound.  
One little nose to smell what’s sweet.  
One little mouth that likes to eat.  

(point to child’s features as mentioned)

**Hurry Scurry Little Mouse**

Hurry scurry little mouse,  
Starts down at your toes.  
Hurry scurry little mouse,  
Past your knees he goes.  
Hurry scurry little mouse,  
Past where your tummy is.  
Hurry scurry little mouse,  
Gives you a mousy kiss.  

(touch child’s toes)  
(touch child’s knees)  
(touch child’s tummy)  
(give child loud kiss)
These are Baby’s Fingers
These are baby’s fingers, (touch child’s fingers)
These are baby’s toes, (touch child’s toes)
This is baby’s belly button, (touch child’s tummy)
Round and round it goes! (gently tickle child’s tummy)

Round and Round the Garden
Round and round the garden, (make a circle in child’s palm)
Goes the teddy bear.
One step, two steps, (fingers walk up child’s arm)
Tickle you under there. (gently tickle child under arm)
Round and round the haystack, (make a circle in child’s other hand)
Goes the little mouse.
One step, two steps, (fingers walk up child’s arm)
Into his little house. (gently tickle child under arm)

Let’s Go to the Forest
Let’s go to the forest. (point to Mother - could be mother, father or grandmother, etc.)
What will we do there?
Find our mother.
What will we do with her?
Kiss her, kiss her, kiss her! (give child kisses)

Bumblebee
Bumblebee was in the barn (circle finger in the air)
Carrying his dinner under his arm (circle finger closer to child)
Bzzzzzzzzzzzzzz…zt! (gently poke child)
Little Flea

Creeping, creeping, little flea,
Up my leg and past my knee.
To my tummy, on he goes,
Past my chin and to my nose.
Now he’s creeping down my chin,
To my tummy once again.
Down my leg and past my knee,
To my toe that little flea.
GOTCHA!

Knock on the Door

Knock on the door,
Peek in,
Unlock the latch,
Walk right in.
How do you do Mr. Chin, Chin, Chin?

All I Want are Hugs

All I want are hugs from you,
Hugs to last the whole day through.
Hugs just make me feel so good,
So hug me, hug me, hug me.
Give me lots of hugs today,
Hugs to chase the blues away.
Hugs to last the whole day through,
Just hug me, hug me, hug me!
What Do I See?

What do I see? Baby’s knee.

Tickly, tickly, tic, tac, tee.

One for a penny, two for a pound,

Tickly, tickly, ’round and ’round.

(with one finger, draw a circle on baby’s knee; at the end, gently tickle baby’s knee)

There Was a Little Mouse

There was a little mouse,

Looking for his house.

Not here,

Not here,

But here, here, here!

(gently tickle child)

(gently tickle child)

(gently tickle child)

(gently tickle child)

(gently tickle tummy)

Baby Bye

Baby bye,

There’s a fly,

We will watch him,

You and I.

There he goes,

On his toes,

Right up to your

Nose, nose, nose.

(flutter fingers above baby)

(gently tickle child)

(gently tickle child)

(gently tickle child)

(gently tickle tummy)

(tap baby’s nose three times)

(substitute other body parts for “nose”)

One, Two, Three

One, two, three,

Tickle your knee.

Four, five, six,

Pick up sticks.

Seven, eight, nine,

You’re all mine!

(tap on baby’s knee)

(gently tickle baby’s knee)

(tap on baby’s tummy)

(gently tickle baby’s tummy)

(tap on baby’s chin)

(hug baby)
Fingerplays

Demonstrate appropriate actions as you sing or say the words.
Eensy Weensy Spider

Eensy Weensy Spider
Climbed up the water spout. (crawl fingers upward)
Down came the rain (bring spread fingers downward)
And washed that spider out! (sweep hands to sides)
Out came the sun (arms make circle over head)
And dried up all the rain,
And Eensy Weensy Spider
Climbed up the spout again! (repeat climbing motion)
(“Itsy Witsy Spider” – tiny voice; “Great Big Hairy Spider” – deep voice)

Here are Grandma’s Glasses

Here are Grandma’s glasses. (circle eyes with thumbs to fingers)
Here is Grandma’s cap. (hands on head)
This is how she folds her hands,
And puts them in her lap. (hands folded in lap)
And here are Grandpa’s glasses,
And here is Grandpa’s hat, (stretch fingers into bigger circles)
And this is how he folds his arms - (hands make big hat)
Just like that! (arms folded)
(nod head decisively)
Where is Thumbkin?

Where is Thumbkin?  (fist behind back)

Where is Thumbkin?

Here I am!  (bring out one fist, thumb raised)

Here I am!  (bring out second fist, thumb raised)

How are you today, Sir?  (first thumb wiggles up and down)

Very well, I thank you!  (other thumb wiggles)

Run away!  (first hand behind back)

Run away!  (other hand behind back)

(repeat with each finger – Pointer, Tall Man, Ring Man, Little One)

Where is Family?

Where is Family?

Here we are!  (bring out first hand, fingers all wiggling)

Here we are!  (bring out other hand, fingers wiggling)

How are you today, Friends?

Very well, we thank you!

Run away!

Run away!

Five Fat Peas

Five fat peas  (make a fist)

In a pea pod pressed.

One grew, two grew,

So did all the rest.  (open fingers one by one)

They grew and grew,

And did not stop,  (wiggle fingers)

Until at last,

That pea pod popped!  (clap hands)
Five Little Monkeys

Five little monkeys
Jumping on the bed -
One fell off,
And bumped his head!
Mama called the doctor
And the doctor said -
“No more monkeys
jumping on the bed!”

(Repeat: Four little monkeys...)
Mama called the doctor
And the doctor said -
“No more monkeys
jumping on the bed!”

Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went out to play,
Over the hills and far away.
Mama Duck called them,
“Quack, quack, quack,”
Four little ducks came running back.

(repeat with 4, 3, 2 little ducks going out)

One little duck went out to play,
Over the hills and far away.
Mama Duck called them,
“Quack, quack, quack,”
But no little ducks came running back.
Mama Duck called them,
“QUACK, QUACK, QUACK!”
And five little ducks came running back!
Fire Truck
Hurry, hurry, (put hands up like they are on the steering wheel)
Drive the fire truck.
Hurry, hurry, Drive the fire truck.
Hurry, hurry, Drive the fire truck.
Ding, ding, ding, ding, ding! (pretend to ring bell)
Hurry, hurry, Turn the corner. (hands on steering wheel but lean into the corner)
Hurry, hurry, Turn the corner.
Hurry, hurry, Turn the corner.
Ding, ding, ding, ding, ding! (pretend to ring bell)
Repeat with:
Climb the ladder. (climb the ladder)
Spray the water. (spray the water)

Ten Fluffy Chickens
Five eggs and five eggs, (hold up two hands)
That makes ten.
Sitting on top is the Mother Hen. (Fold one hand over the other)
Crackle, crackle, crackle; (clap three times)
What do I see?
Ten fluffy chickens, (hold up ten fingers)
As yellow as can be.
Elephant Song

One elephant went out to play,  
(hold up one finger)
Over the hills and far away.  
(wave finger like it is going over the hills)
She had such enormous fun,  
(on “enormous” circle arms out and around)
That she called for another elephant to come.  
(cup hands over mouth)
“Oh Elephant!”…  
(call out and then pound the floor
for the running elephant sound)

Two elephants went out to play,  
(use two fingers…repeat above actions)
Over the hills and far away.
They had such enormous fun,
That they called for another elephant to come.
“Oh Elephant!”…

(Repeat with as many elephants (fingers) as you want)

Open, Shut Them

Open, shut them,  
(using hands, suit actions to rhyme)
Open, shut them,
Give a little clap!
Open, shut them,
Open, shut them,
Hide behind your back!
Creep them, creep them,
Slowly upward, right up to your cheek.
Open wide your shiny eyes,
And through your fingers peek.
Open, shut them,
Open, shut them,
Give a little clap!
Open, shut them,
Open, shut them,
Lay them in your lap.
Movement Games

Say the words loud or soft, fast or slow, for fun and variety.
Tall as a Tree
Tall as a tree,  
Wide as a house,  
Thin as a pin,  
Small as a mouse.  
(stretch arms overhead)  
(stretch arms out to sides)  
(arms tight against sides)  
(crouch)

Jack in the Box
Jack in the box,  
Jack in the box,  
Oh so still -  
Won’t you come out?  
Won’t you come out?  
Won’t you come out?  
YES I WILL!  
(crouch down)  
(shout and jump up)

Hickory Dickory Dock
Hickory dickory dock,  
The mouse ran up the clock.  
The clock struck one,  
The mouse ran down -  
Hickory dickory dock!  
(clasped hands swing like clock pendulum)  
(fingers on one hand run up arm, sit atop head)  
(clap hands one time)  
(hand runs down again)  
(swing pendulum again)

Additional verses:
Clock struck two,  
the mouse said “Boo!”  
(clap twice)
Clock struck three,  
the mouse said “Whee!”  
(clap three times)
Clock struck four,  
the mouse said “No more!”  
(clap four times)
Head and Shoulders

Head and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes;
Head and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes;
Eyes and ears and mouth and nose;
Head and shoulders, knees and toes, Knees and toes!

(touch as named; sing once, then sing again more and more quickly until no one can keep up, or until you’re all exhausted!)

I’m a Little Teapot

I’m a little teapot,
Short and stout -
Here is my handle,
Here is my spout.
When I get all steamed up,
Hear me SHOUT -
“Tip me over and pour me out!”
I can change my handle,
I can change my spout -
Tip me over and pour me out!

(one hand on hip)
(bend other arm out to side)
(rock from side to side)
(tilt body to “spout” side)
(reverse sides for handle and spout)

Tap and Clap

Two little feet go tap, tap, tap. (follow actions of verse as spoken)
Two little hands go clap, clap, clap.
A quick little leap up from the chair,
Two little arms reach high in the air.
Two little feet go jump, jump, jump.
Two little hands go thump, thump, thump.
One little baby turns round and round.
One little child sits quietly down.
Johnny Pounds with One Hammer

Johnny pounds with one hammer, \(\text{pound one fist on knee}\)
One hammer, one hammer,
Johnny pounds with one hammer,
Then he pounds with two. \(\text{use both fists}\)

Johnny pounds with two hammers,
Two hammers, two hammers,
Johnny pounds with two hammers,
Then he pounds with three. \(\text{add stamping of one foot}\)

Johnny pounds with three hammers,
Three hammers, three hammers,
Johnny pounds with three hammers,
Then he pounds with four. \(\text{both feet}\)

Johnny pounds with four hammers,
Four hammers, four hammers,
Johnny pounds with four hammers,
Then he pounds with five. \(\text{add bobbing of head}\)

Johnny pounds with five hammers,
Five hammers, five hammers,
Johnny pounds with five hammers,
Then he takes a rest! \(\text{collapse}\)
One Arm Goes Up

One arm goes up,          (sitting down, move arms and legs as the rhyme says)
One arm goes down.
One arm goes up and down.
Two arms go up,
Two arms go down.
Two arms go up and down.
One leg goes up,
One leg goes down.
One leg goes up and down.
Two legs go up,
Two legs go down.
Two legs go up and down.
Two arms and two legs go up,
Two arms and two legs go down.
Two arms and two legs go up and down.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear

Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn around.    (start in standing position then turn around)
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the ground. (touch ground)
Teddy bear, teddy bear, tie your shoe.  (pretend to tie shoe)
Teddy bear, teddy bear, I love you!     (give yourself a hug)
Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn out the light. (pretend to turn out light)
Teddy bear, teddy bear, say “Good night!” (blow kiss)
First I Find a Foot

First I find a foot, and I hop, hop, hop. (stand on one foot and hop)
Then when I get tired, I stop, stop, stop. (step on “stops”)
Turn around and count to ten. (turn around)
Then I find a foot, and I hop again. (hop on other foot)

Way Up High in an Apple Tree

Way up high in an apple tree, (stretch arms up)
two little apples smiled at me. (make two fists)
So I shook that tree as hard as I could, (shake arms above your head)
down came the apples (fingers wiggle down)
ummm were they good! (rub tummy)
World Rhymes

Enjoy rhymes in other languages.
Spanish

Mi familia (My Family)
Este chiquito es mi hermanito. (Levante su mano y comience con tocar su pulgar)
Esta es mi mamá. (el dedo gordo), siga la rima usando cada dedo para los miembros de la familia.)
Este altito es mi papá. (Hold up your hand and start by touching your thumb, then go through the rhyme with each finger representing a family member.)
Esta es mi hermana.

Chocolaté (Hot Chocolate)
Uno…dos…tres…cho. (Haga un puño con una mano y golpéelo en la otra mano durante las primeras cuatro líneas)
Uno…dos…tres…co. (Después utilice el puño como cuchara y revuelva, revuelva, revuelva)
Uno…dos…tres…la. (Make fist with one hand and pound it into other hand - repeat four times. Use fist as a spoon and stir, stir, stir.)
Uno…dos…tres…te.
Bate, bate, chocolaté.

Cinco Dedos (Five Fingers)
Éste compró un huevito. (mueva el dedo pequeño - move little finger)
Éste lo cocinó. (mueva el dedo anular {del anillo} - move ring finger)
Éste le echó la sal. (mueva el dedo del medio {del corazón} - move middle finger)
Éste probó un poquito. (mueva el dedo índice - move pointer)
Y éste pícaro, gordo gordito. (mueva el dedo pulgar {dedo gordo} - move thumb)
Se lo comió todito! (mene la mano y todos los dedos - wave hand and move fingers)
La Araña Pequeñita (Itsy Bitsy Spider)

La araña pequeñita
Subió, subió y subió,
Vino la lluvia
Y se la llevó.
Salió el sol.
Y todo lo secó
Y la araña pequeñita
Subió, subió y subió.

Adiós Amigos (Good-bye Friends)

( *sung to the tune of Frère Jacques *)
Adiós amigos. Adiós amigos
Ya me voy. Ya me voy.
Me dió mucho gusto,
Estar con ustedes,
Adiós. Adiós.

Cinco Pollitos (Five Little Chickens)

Cinco pollitos tiene mi tía
Uno le canta,
Otro le pía.
Y tres le tocan la sinfonía.

(Repite)

La Hormiguita (The Ant)

Andaba una hormiguita
Juntando su leñita.
De pronto cayó una nievecita
Y corrió rápido a su casita.
Que Llueva (Bring the Rain)

Que llueva, que llueva,
El quetzal está en la cueva.
Los pajaritos cantan,
Las nubes se levantan.
Que sí, que no,
Que caiga un chaparrón.

Las Hojas (The Leaves)

Las hojas se ven mecer,
Rojas, cafés, anaranjadas, y amarillas,
Girando, volando se ven caer,
Cayendo suavemente sobre las sillas.

Una Boquita (A Little Mouth)

Yo tengo una boquita para comer,
Yo tengo una naricita para oler.
Yo tengo dos ojitos para ver.
Yo tengo dos oídos para oír
Y yo tengo mi cabecita para pensar y dormir.

Arre, Caballito (Hurry Along, Little Horse)

Rodilla ye enele suavemente
Arre, caballito
Vamos a Belén,
Que mañana es fiesta
Y al otro también.
¡Arre, arre, arre
Que llegamos tarde!
Bliny (Pat-a-Cake)

Peki bliny rumianye,  
Rumianye, goriachie.

Peki bliny rumianye,  
Rumianye, goriachie.

English version:

They fried fresh pancakes  
Fresh and hot.

They fried fresh pancakes  
Fresh and hot.

Other Rhymes

Ogurechik, ogurechik,  
Ne hodi na tot konechik.  
Tam myshka zhyviot,  
Tiebe, hvostik otgryziot.

Little cucumber,  
Do not go over there.  
There lives a mouse,  
Who will bite off your stem.

Ladushk, ladushki,  
Pekla babushka oladushki.  
Maslom polivala,  
Detushkam davala.

Puddy cake, puddy cake,  
The grandma was baking pancakes.  
She was buttering them,  
She was giving them to the kids.

Dashe dua, Pashe dua, Vanie dua,  
Moroshi oladushki u lubimoi babushka.

She gave them to Daria, to Paul, to Vania,  
Dear granny has great pancakes.

Rano, rano po utru,  
Pastushok ru, ru, ru.

Very early in the morning,  
A shepherd boy (makes noise) ru, ru, ru.

A korovka usled emu, mu, mu,  
mu, da, mu, mu, mu.

And the cow adds to it moo, moo, moo,  
and moo, moo, moo.

Sidit belka na telezhke,  
Prodaiot ona oreshki.

There is a squirrel on the cart,  
She is selling the nuts.

Lesichke sestrichki.  
Vorobiu, senichke.

To the sister vixen.  
To the sparrow to the blue jay.

Mishe tostolapomu,  
Zainke usatomu.

To the big-armed bear,  
To the bunny with whiskers.
Russian continued

Zhily u babusi,
Dua veselyh gusya
Odin deryi, drugoi belyi,
Dua veselyh gusya

Once upon a time there lived with an old lady,
Two happy ganders
One was grey, the other was white,
Two happy ganders.

Korean

산토끼 (Mountain Rabbit)

산토끼 토끼야
(As you sing the verses, put both hands on your forehead,
one on each side, and jump 4 times like a rabbit; once with
hands toward left, once with hands toward right, once with
hands toward left and once with hands toward right)

어디를 가느뇨
(March with both hands swinging as if you are going
somewhere in a hurry)

강충강충 뛰면서
(Repeat the jumping motions for 4 times as in the same way
from the first verse)

어디를 가느뇨
(March with both hands swinging)

English version:

Mountain rabbit, mountain rabbit
Where are you headed to?
Jumping so fast in a hurry; jumping so fast in a hurry…
Where are you headed to?
 реализацией (Clapping)

엄마 앞에서 찍싸궁 (Put you left hand across to the right shoulder, then put your right hand across to the left shoulder; then clap three times)

아빠 앞에서 찍싸궁 (Repeat)

엄마 한숨을 잡자고 (Put you left hand across to the right shoulder, then put your right hand across to the left shoulder; then put hands together and put them on the right cheek while the head is slightly bent to the right)

아빠 주름살 퍼져라 (Put you left hand across to the right shoulder, then put your right hand across to the left shoulder; then put both hands on the forehead as if pulling on the skin to each side—left hand to left and right hand to the right)

햇님 보면서 찍싸궁 (Make a wide circle with two hands symbolizing sun; then open both hands and put forward in front of you; then clap three times)

도리 도리 찍싸궁 (Shake your head once to the right, once to the left in fast motion for 2 times; then clap your hands three times)

우리 엄마가 웃는다 (Put your left hand across to the right shoulder, then put your right hand across to the left shoulder; then put both hands in front of at the end of lips, smiling)

우리 아빠가 웃는다 (Repeat)

English version:
Clap your hands before mom
Clap our hands before dad
May mom take a short nap
May dad’s winkles be gone
Clap our hands looking at the sun
Shaking our heads right to left, we clap our hands
They bring smiles to mom
They bring smiles to dad
Wiggles, Tickles and Rhymes underscores Pierce County Library System’s role in nurturing language development in children 0-5 years old. These fingerplay and lap games are a special way to combine the rhythm and rhyme of language with simple movement activities. They also provide fun interaction between baby and caregiver.

Funding for Wiggles, Tickles and Rhymes is generously provided by:

The Boeing Company

Eulalie Bloedel Schneider Foundation

The Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Foundation

Puyallup Tribe of Indians

Russell Investment Group

Pierce County Library Foundation

Wiggles, Tickles and Rhymes is a free publication of the Pierce County Library System Early Learning Department. Additional copies can be requested by calling (253) 536-6500, ext 189.

This ELOA project was made possible by a grant from the Child Care Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents do not represent the official views of the funding agency, nor does publication in any way constitute an endorsement.