Rhyme, Sing, Play!
Helping kids get ready to read is simple!

You already TALK, SING, SHARE BOOKS, and PLAY with your kids! These are some of the best ways to help them get ready to read.

**TALKING** with your children helps them learn words and how language works.

**SINGING** slows down language and develops vocabulary.

**SHARING BOOKS** every day builds a love of reading.

**PLAYING** is how children learn and practice ideas and language!
Rhymes, songs, and games help babies and kids build language — and have fun!

Your library staff shared some favorite rhymes in this book. Use them to sing, chant, or play with your children however you like!

For a video playlist of these rhymes, visit www.wccls.org/ready-read or scan the QR code on the last page.
WAY UP HIGH IN AN APPLE TREE
This rhyme can be done lifting a baby up and down to suit the words

Way up high, in an apple tree
stand and be a tree or point up a tree
two red apples smiling down at me
two fists up in the air
I shook that tree as hard as I could!
shake yourself or make a circle with your arms and shake them

Down fell the apples,
fists fall to ground

mmmm!
They were good!

Repeat with other fruits
BABY BABY DUMPLING
Baby baby dumpling, put them in a pot.
Butter them, sugar them, and eat them while they’re hot.
cuddle, “butter,” sprinkle, and “nibble” baby

OPEN SHUT THEM
Open them, shut them, open them, shut them,
give a little clap clap clap clap.
Open them, shut them, open them, shut them,
lay them in your lap lap lap.
Creep them, creep them, slowly creep them,
right up to your chin chin chin chin.
Open wide your little mouth… but do not let them in!
SALLY GO ‘ROUND THE SUN
Sally go round the sun,
Sally go round the moon,
Sally go round the stars,
every afternoon.

BINGO
There was a farmer had a dog and
Bingo was his name-o,
B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O,
and Bingo was his name-o.

There was a farmer had a dog and
Bingo was his name-o,
clap instead of saying the first letter
clap I-N-G-O, clap I-N-G-O,
clap I-N-G-O,
and Bingo was his name-o.
keep replacing letters
with claps
TALL AS A TREE
Tall as a tree.
stand up and reach up high
Wide as a house.
stretch out arms and legs
Thin as a pin.
stand tall, as thin as you can
Small as a mouse.
curl up small
Tall as a tree, how tall can you be?
Wide as a house, how wide can you be?
Thin as a pin, how thin can you be?
Small as a mouse, how small can you be?
RIDING ON A SMOOTH ROAD

Riding on a smooth road, a smooth road, a smooth road,
bounce child gently on lap
riding on a smooth road — but what’s that ahead?

Riding on a bumpy road, a bumpy road, a bumpy road,
bounce child bumpily on lap
riding on a bumpy road — but what’s that ahead?

Riding on a rough road, a rough road, a rough road,
bounce child vigorously on lap
riding on a rough road — but what’s that ahead?!?

A hole!
gently “drop” child between your legs or lean them back.
PEASE PORRIDGE HOT
Pease porridge hot, pease porridge cold, pease porridge in the pot, nine days old.
Some like it hot, some like it cold, some like it in the pot, nine days old.

HERE IS THE BEEHIVE
Here is the beehive.
make a fist with one hand, and cover it with the other
Where are the bees?
Hidden inside where nobody sees.
Watch as they come out of the hive!
1-2-3-4-5!
lift up your hand, and open your fist to show your fingers
WIGGLE WIGGLE FINGERS
Wiggle, wiggle, fingers,
way up to the sky.
Wiggle, wiggle, fingers,
wave them all goodbye.
Wiggle, wiggle, fingers,
curl them in a ball.
Wiggle, wiggle, fingers,
but do not let them fall…
KERPLUNK! KERPLUNK! KERPLUNK!

I LIKE A COLOR
I like a color, yes I do,
I like a color, yes I do,
I like a color, yes I do,
here’s a rhyming clue for you: bed!
What color rhymes with bed?
That’s right: red!

for each new color give a rhyming clue, such as “shoe!” for “blue”
5 IN THE BED
There were 5 in the bed and the little one said roll over, roll over. So they all rolled over and one fell out. Plop!
There were 4 in the bed and the little one said roll over, roll over. So they all rolled over and one fell out. Plop!
There were 3 in the bed...
There were 2 in the bed...
There was 1 in the bed and the little one said good-night, good-night!

THE MOON IS ROUND
The moon is round as round can be. trace finger around face
Two eyes, a nose and a mouth like me. point to eyelids, nose and lips
DUMP TRUCK

Dump truck, dump truck
bumping down the road,
bounce baby on lap
spilling gravel with our heavy load!
rock baby back & forth on lap

Dump truck, dump truck
bumping down the road,
bounce baby on lap
spilling gravel,
rock baby back & forth on lap

and now it's time to DUMP!
tip baby backward, or lift in air
SLOW SNAIL
Slowly, slowly, very slowly creeps
the little snail, walk fingers up arm
slowly, slowly, very slowly up the
wooden rail. pause at top for suspense
Quickly, quickly, very quickly runs
the little mouse, run fingers around
child’s belly
quickly, quickly, very quickly to the little house.
slip fingers under child’s arm
and tickle or hug

WALKING WALKING
*tune: Are You Sleeping*
Walking, walking, walking, walking.
Hop hop hop! Hop hop hop!
Running running running!
Running running running!
Now let’s stop. Now let’s stop.
THE WHEELS ON THE BUS

The wheels on the bus go round and round,
round and round, round and round.
The wheels on the bus go round and round
all through the town.

The doors on the bus go open and shut,
open and shut, open and shut.
The doors on the bus go open and shut
all through the town.
The horn on the bus goes beep-beep-beep, beep-beep-beep, beep-beep-beep.
The horn on the bus goes beep-beep-beep all through the town.
The babies on the bus go wah-wah-wah, wah-wah-wah, wah-wah-wah!
The babies on the bus go wah-wah-wah all through the town.
The grown-ups on the bus go shh-shh-shh, shh-shh-shh, shh-shh-shh.
The grown-ups on the bus go shh-shh-shh all through the town.
HECKETY PECKETY BUMBLEBEE
name game
Heckety Peckety Bumblebee,
will you say your name for me?
clap, pat, whisper and shout out
children’s names on the beat

O-ly-vi-a
clap, clap, clap, clap

O-ly-vi-a
pat, pat, pat, pat knees

O-ly-vi-a
whisper on the beat

Olyvia!
throw hands up in air
**TICK TOCK**

Tick tock, tick tock, I’m a little cuckoo clock.

Tick tock, tick tock, now the time is one o’clock.

Cuckoo!
lift baby into the air
older kids can jump up

Now the time is...

continue with two, three, four and five o’clock

**WAKE UP HANDS**

Wake up hands, wake up hands,

wake up hands and

wiggle, wiggle, wiggle!

Wake up hands, wake up hands,

wake up and wiggle in the morning!

continue with toes, elbows, ears, me, etc.
I LOOK LIKE THIS
I look like this when I’m happy,
I look like this when I sigh.
I look like this when I’m sleepy,
I look like this when I cry.
I look like this when I’m angry,
I look like this when I’m sad.
I look like this when I’m curious,
and I look like this when I’m glad.

HELLO BUBBLES
Hello bubbles, hello bubbles
come and land, come and land
right in the middle, right in the middle
of my hand, of my hand.

Goodbye bubbles, goodbye bubbles
time to go, time to go
I will help you, I will help you
with a blow, with a blow.
ZOOM ZOOM ZOOM
bounce baby on your lap;
or child acts out words
Zoom, zoom, zoom
we’re going to the moon,
zoom, zoom, zoom
we’re going to the moon.
If you’d like to take a trip
climb aboard the rocket ship!
Zoom, zoom, zoom
we’re going to the moon.
5-4-3-2-1
bounce slowly and say numbers
Blastoff!
lift baby up
**JELLYFISH**
Jellyfish, jellyfish, jellyfish, jelly.
wave fingers
Jellyfish, jellyfish, jellyfish, jelly.
wave fingers with wrists together

repeat rhyme and add actions:
elbows together, knees together,
toes together, bottom out,
and tongue out

**SILLY HAT**
tune: This Old Man
On my head I wear a hat.
It is such a silly hat
that my head will wiggle,
wiggle to and fro.
Where else should my silly hat go?

repeat, putting hat on knee, foot, etc.
TOMMY THUMBS
Tommy thumbs are up and Tommy thumbs are down, Tommy thumbs are dancing all around the town. Dance them on your shoulders, dance them on your head, dance them on your knees and tuck them into bed.

repeat with names for each finger, then all the fingers

FE, FI, FO, FUM
Fe, fi, fo, fum, see my fingers, see my thumb.
Fe, fi, fo, fum, goodbye fingers, goodbye thumb!
TEDDY BEAR, TEDDY BEAR
Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn around.
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the ground.
Teddy bear, teddy bear, reach up high.
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the sky.
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch your toes.
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch your nose.
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch your head.
Teddy bear, teddy bear, time for bed.

TOAST IN THE TOASTER
I’m toast in the toaster.
I’m getting very hot.
Tick tock, tick tock, up I pop!
JUMP INTO BED

Jump into bed, turn out the light.
click tongue

Very quietly say, “Good night.”
lay head on hands

But! Underneath my tiny bed
sit up, finger raised

I hear a funny noise instead!
hand behind ear

Roll way over and take a peek…
lean over and peer

Now there’s a dinosaur that I see!

Jump out of bed! Open the door!
pretend to open the door

And say to the dinosaur,
“Stay no more!” shake finger

Close the door and lock it!
pretend to close the door

repeat, asking
children what else
they see under the bed
POLLO CHICKEN
Pollito, chicken, gallina, hen, lápiz, pencil and pluma, pen.
Ventana, window, puerta, door, maestra, teacher and piso, floor.

PIZZA PICKLE PUMPERNICKEL
Pizza, pickle, pumpernickel.
My little one shall have a tickle.
One for their nose, one for their toes, and one for their tummy where the cracker goes!
MAMA’S SLEEPING

tune: Skip to My Lou

begin quietly:
Mama’s sleeping, don’t wake her up. 3x
Let’s be very quiet.

loudly:
Wake up, Mama, it’s time to play! 3x
Let’s be very noisy!

change to children / grown-ups / pets / etc. are sleeping...

SO EARLY IN THE MORNING

This is the way we wave hello, wave hello, wave hello.

This is the way we wave hello, so early in the morning.

repeat with comb our hair, brush our teeth, wash our face, stretch up tall...
WHO IS HIDING?
Who is hiding, who is hiding?
Who can it be, who can it be?
Let’s find out, let’s find out!
Look, it’s me! Look, it’s me!
try hiding behind a scarf.

ICKA BICKA SODA CRACKER
Icka bicka soda cracker,
Icka bicka boo!
Icka bicka soda cracker,
Up with you!

repeat with “Down with you!”
For more rhymes and fun activities to do with your child, visit your local Washington County library, scan the code below, or go to wccls.org.ready-read

To the best of our ability, we have included only rhymes that are in the public domain.

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