

# TRIT TROT TO BOSTON

## The Whys and Hows of Using Nursery Rhymes in Early Literacy Programs for Babies and Toddlers

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## MUST- HAVE BOOKS, CD's AND VIDEOS TO LEARN RHYMES

### BOOKS:

Cass-Beggs, Barbara. *Your Baby Needs Music*. New York: St. Martins Press, 1980

Cobb, Jane. *What'll I do with the Baby-oh? Nursery Rhymes and Songs and Stories for Babies*. Vancouver: Black Sheep Press, Forthcoming: 2006. (To order: [www.blacksheepress.com](http://www.blacksheepress.com))

Cole, Joanna. *Pat-a-Cake and Other Play Rhymes*. New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1992

Clow-Martin, Elaine. *Baby Games: The Joyful Guide to Child's Play from Birth to Three Years*. Toronto: Stoddart, 2000

Diamant-Cohen, Betsy. *Mother Goose on the Loose*. New York: Neal-Schuman, Forthcoming: 2006. (To order: [www.neal-schuman.com/db/5/515.html](http://www.neal-schuman.com/db/5/515.html))

Roberts, Sheena. *Playsongs: Action Songs and Rhymes for Babies and Toddlers*. London: Playsongs Publications, 1991

Williams, Sarah. *Round and Round the Garden: Play Rhymes for Young Children*. Illustrated by Ian Beck. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984

Wilner, Isabel. *The Baby's Game Book*. Illustrated by Sam Williams. New York: Greenwillow, 2000

### CDs:

Diamant-Cohen, Betsy *Mother Goose on the Loose: More songs and rhymes for Mother Goose on the Loose*. (To order: <http://cdbaby.com/cd/bdcohen>)

McGrath, Bob and Katharine Smithrim. *The Baby Record*. Toronto: Kids' Records, 2003

Reid-Naiman, Kathy. *Tickles and Tunes*. Aurora, ON: Merriweather Records, 1994

Reid-Naiman, Kathy. *More Tickles and Tunes*. Aurora, ON: Merriweather Records, 1997

Reid-Naiman, Kathy. *On My Way to Dreamland*. Toronto: P-CMGP, 2002

Reid-Naiman, Kathy. *Say Hello to the Morning*. Aurora, ON: Merriweather Records, 1999

Reid-Naiman, Kathy. *A Smooth Road to London Town: Songs from the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program*. Aurora, ON: Merriweather Records, 2001

### VIDEOS

Jaeger, Sally. *From Wibbleton to Wobbleton*. Toronto: 49 North Productions, 2000

## TOP 10 REASONS TO DO BABYTIME

1. Babies are your easiest and least critical customers - especially when they're sleeping!
2. It's a great time to introduce parents to picturebooks and stress the benefits of reading.
3. Move over Baby Einstein! The time honoured tradition of sharing rhymes and songs is what really builds brains. No purchase required.
4. Grandparents welcome. Babytime is a family affair, making the library a common ground for the generations.
5. It's a perfect hook to get parents into the library and create lifelong patrons.
6. Chicken Soup is so twentieth century: Babytime is good for the soul AND staff morale. There's nothing like a library full of babies to lift everyone's spirits.
7. Babytime graduates make excellent storytime kids. They learn the drill and are ready for stories and so are their parents.
8. It's a gigantic ego boost. You will be a local hero, as there are not many free programs for parents and babies.
9. Really, it's not hard! Babytime can be as simple (or as complicated) as you make it.
10. It's FUN. Make funny faces and silly noises and leave your troubles behind!

## IT'S YOUR LIBRARY, WORK IT BABY!

When you're not available, make the most of the bricks and mortar - let the physical space work for the babies in the community.

**LIBRARY AS MEETING PLACE:** Encourage parents and caregivers to meet in the off season, same time, same place. This will help keep parents on track for when babytime starts again. If you have a programme room, make it available to them if you can.

**E-MAIL:** Encourage parents and caregivers to exchange e-mail addresses and set up their own meetings throughout the week.

**RESPOND POSITIVELY TO OTHER GROUPS:** Encourage organizations in your community that serve babies - public health units, community centers, breastfeeding clinics - to use the library. Stress to board members, administration and fellow staff that these organizations are frequently a bridge for non library uses. (See #5 of "Top Ten Reasons to do Babytime.")

**DEDICATED BABY DISPLAYS:** Parents are hungry for easily found information - keep them up to date on what's available in the community.

### WHAT IF YOU HAVE THE ENTHUSIASM BUT ARE SHORT ON SPACE?

Are your library's carpets too dirty for babies to crawl on? Explore your neighborhood for groups to host you and strike a bargain. EG: Community centers, speech therapy centers, YWCA, medical centers, churches, clinics, etc. Go to where the babies are!

## RHYMES

### Going on a bike ride

Going on a bike ride  
Going on a bike ride  
Going on a bike ride  
Who do you see?  
Grandmas on a bike ride  
Grandmas on a bike ride  
Grandmas on a bike ride  
Ridin with me!  
(With baby lying on his back, roll baby's legs in circular motion.)

*Add your own verses:*

Going on a boat ride  
Going on a bus ride  
Going on a plane ride  
(Make actions to suit new vehicles.)

*Or, stay on the bike and add other family members!*

### Hickory Dickory Dare

Hickory dickory dare.  
The pig flew up in the air.  
Farmer Brown soon brought her down.  
Hickory dickory dare.  
(Have the children take turns throwing a cuddly toy pig in the air.  
Remind the adults to clap after each throw to give the children a sense of accomplishment.)

### Ho, ho, watanee

Ho, ho, watanee,  
Ho, ho, watanee,  
Ho, ho, watanee,  
Kiokina, kiokina.

Do, do, mon petit  
Do, do, mon petit  
Do, do, mon petit  
Et bonne nuit, et bonne nuit.

Sleep, sleep, little one,  
Sleep, sleep, little one,  
Sleep, sleep, little one,  
Now go to sleep, now go to sleep.

### I went to visit the farm

I went to visit the farm one day.  
I saw a [cow] across the way.  
And what do you think the cow did say?  
Moo, moo, moo.  
(Sing this song while showing pictures of different animals from Eric Carle's *The Very Busy Spider*.)

### Mister Moon

Mister Moon, Mister Moon  
You're out too soon  
The sun is still in the sky.  
Go back into your bed  
And cover up your head  
Until the day goes by.  
This round is followed nicely by *The Cuckoo*:  
Twas on a summer's evening  
I walked the forest through.

When suddenly I heard it a soft and sweet cuckoo.  
Cuckoo, cuckoo, cuckoo, cuckoo, cuckoo,  
Cuckoo, cuckoo, cuckoo, cuckoo, cuckoo.

### Mother and father and Uncle John

(Parents put their legs straight out in front of them and sit baby on legs so baby is facing them.)

Mother and father and Uncle John  
went to town one by one. (Bounce child.)  
Mother fell off.... (Lean to one side.)  
and father fell off.... (Lean to the other side.)  
But Uncle John went on and on and on and on and on and on and on...  
(Continue bouncing.)

### Peek-a-boo (Tune: Frere Jacques)

Peek-a-boo, peek-a-boo  
I see you, I see you (Point to baby.)  
I see your button nose (Touch baby's nose.)  
I see your tiny toes (Touch baby's toes.)  
I see you, I see you. (Point to baby.)

### Pitter patter

Pitter patter, pitter patter,  
listen to the rain.  
Pitter patter, pitter patter,  
on my windowpane.

### Rain is falling down

Rain is falling down, splash!  
Rain is falling down, splash!  
Pitter patter, pitter patter,  
Rain is falling down, splash!  
(Gently "rain" on baby with fingertips, touching them gently on "Splash".)

Sun is peeking out, peek!  
Sun is peeking out, peek!  
Peeking here, peeking there,  
Sun is peeking out, peek!  
(Play peek-a-boo.)

### Ring your bells (Tune: Jingle Bells)

Ring your bells, ring your bells, ring your bells today.  
Oh what fun it is to ring, to ring your bells today ay!  
Ring your bells, ring your bells, ring your bells today.  
Oh what fun it is to ring, to ring your bells today!  
(Ring them up high. Ring them down low. Ring them in the middle.)

### Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham

Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham,  
Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham,  
Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham,  
Oh, rock-a my soul.

So high you can't get over it, (Lift baby up.)  
So low you can't get under it, (Lower baby.)  
So wide you can't get around it, (Swing baby around gently.)  
Oh, rock-a my soul !

*Or, try different words:*

How would you like a great big hug?  
How would you like a great big hug?  
How would like a great big hug?

How big should it be?  
So high I can't get over it  
So low I can't get under it  
So wide I can't get around it  
That's how big it should be!  
(Same actions as above.)

### **A smooth road**

A smooth road, a smooth road, a smooth road (Bounce baby gently.)  
A bumpy road, a bumpy road, a bumpy road (Increase bounce.)  
A rough road, a rough road, a rough road, (Increase bounce again.)  
A HOLE (Open your legs and gently lower baby into "hole".)

### **Spots**

Spots spots spots spots  
Spots spots spots spots  
A leopard has lots of spots  
What a lot of spots he's got  
A tiger has stripes  
Like long thin pipes  
But a leopard has lots of  
Spots spots spots spots  
Spots spots spots spots  
(Poke baby gently on each "spot". Gently draw long lines on baby for "stripe".)  
(*Sheena Roberts, Playsongs*)

### **Tall trees**

Tall trees,  
Warm fire,  
Strong wind,  
Running water;  
I feel it in my body,  
I feel it in my soul.

### **Tick tock**

Tick tock tick tock  
Listen to the cuckoo clock  
Tick tock tick tock  
Now it's time for me to STOP!  
(Hold baby on lap and gently rock back and forth to the rhythm of a ticking clock. Children love the sudden end!)

*For a longer version, add an introductory verse:*

Tick tock tick tock  
Listen to the cuckoo clock  
Tick tock tick tock  
Now its almost three oclock.  
Cuckoo! Cuckoo! Cuckoo!  
(Gently lift baby up on each "cuckoo". For a less strenuous version simply play "peek-a-boo".)

### **Trit trot to Boston**

Trit trot to Boston  
Trit trot to Lynne  
Watch out little boy that you don't fall in!  
Trit trot to Boston  
Trit trot to Dover  
Watch out little girl that you don't fall over!

### **Two little dicky birds**

Two little dicky birds sitting on a cloud.  
One named Soft, the other named LOUD.

Fly away Soft, **Fly away LOUD.**  
Come back Soft, **Come back, LOUD.**  
(Alternate loud and soft voices.)  
(*Barbara Cass-Beggs*)

### **We hit the floor together**

We hit the floor together, we hit the floor together,  
We hit the floor together, because it's fun to do.

We stomp our feet together....  
We wiggle our fingers together,  
We clap our hands...  
We nod our heads...  
We sway from side to side  
We all wave "hello,"  
(*Barbara Cass-Beggs*)  
(Make actions to suit words.)

### **We're marching to the drum**

(Tune: "Farmer in the Dell")  
We're marching to the drum, we're marching to the drum.  
Hi-ho the derry-o, we're marching to the drum.  
We're marching 'round the room, we're marching 'round the room.  
Hi-ho the derry-o, we're marching 'round the room.  
We're marching to the drum, we're marching to the drum.  
Hi-ho the derry-o, we're marching to the drum.  
AND THE DRUM SAYS "STOP."  
Can you hit stop?  
(use positive words...)

### **What shall we do with a tiny baby?**

(Tune: What shall we do with the drunken sailor?)

What shall we do with a tiny baby?  
What shall we do with a tiny baby?  
What shall we do with a tiny baby?  
Early in the morning.

Roll him around and tickle him all over  
Roll him around and tickle him all over  
Roll him around and tickle him all over  
Early in the morning.  
(Suit actions to words.)

Heave ho! And up she rises  
Heave ho! And up she rises  
Heave ho! And up she rises  
Early in the morning.  
(Lift baby up.)  
Laughing/happy/sleepy/hungry...

### **Zoom! Zoom! Zoom!**

Zoom! Zoom! Zoom!  
Were going to the moon!  
Zoom! Zoom! Zoom!  
Were going to the moon!  
(Brush hands together in upward motion, fingers pointed to sky.)  
If you want to take a trip,  
then climb aboard my rocket ship.  
Zoom! Zoom! Zoom!  
Were going to the moon!  
Ready? 5-4-3-2-1  
(Hold 5 fingers up and count down.)  
BLAST OFF! (Lift baby up.)