

Fingerplays are a tool many learning experts encourage to help develop children's literacy skills. Fingerplays are songs, stories or rhymes that use hand actions to:

- practice following directions
- learn more words
- improve dexterity (ability to use fingers)

all through a fun and interactive process!

Many cultures around the world have great fingerplays. Try the ones below, or make up your own and get those fingers moving!



Itsy-Bitsy Spider

Song words

The itsy-bitsy spider climbed up
the water spout

Down came the rain

and washed the spider out

Out came the sun that dried up
all the rain

and the itsy-bitsy spider climbed
up the spout again

Actions

lock thumbs and let 8 fingers
crawl up

lift your hands up and wiggle your fingers as you
bring your hands down

push hands and arms forward in an outward
spreading motion

hold your hands together above your head

finger crawl up again

Finger Family

Song words

Daddy finger, daddy finger,
where are you?

Here I am, here I am.
How do you do?



Actions

Put both hands behind your back.

Here I am, here I am.

Show one thumb and then the other thumb.

How do you do?

Wiggle both thumbs.

Finger Family

Song words

Mommy finger, Mommy finger,
where are you?

Here I am, here I am.
How do you do?

Brother finger, Brother finger,
where are you?

Here I am, here I am.
How do you do?

Sister finger, Sister finger,
where are you?

Here I am, here I am.
How do you do?

Baby finger, Baby finger,
where are you?

Here I am, here I am.
How do you do?

Finger family, finger family,
where are you?

Here we are, here we are.
How do you do?

Actions

Put both hands behind your back again.

Here I am, here I am.

Show one index finger and then the other index finger.

How do you do?

Wiggle both fingers.

Put both hands behind your back again.

Here I am, here I am.

Show one middle finger and then the other middle finger.

How do you do?

Wiggle both fingers.

Put both hands behind your back again.

Here I am, here I am.

Show one ring finger and then the other ring finger.

How do you do?

Wiggle both fingers.

Put both hands behind your back again.

Here I am, here I am.

Show one pinky finger and then the other pinky finger.

How do you do?

Wiggle both fingers.

Put both hands behind your back again.

Here we are, here we are.

Show all fingers from one hand and then
all fingers on the other hand.

How do you do?

Wiggle all fingers.

