



Lyrics for Circle Songs

1. Hello Everyone
2. These are My Eyes
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7. My Boat
8. One Little Baby
9. Hickory Dickory Dock
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11. Pat the Ball
12. Little Peter Rabbit
13. Row, Row, Row Your Boat
14. Two Little Animals
15. Three Itching Mice
16. Frog on a Lily Pad
17. Here We Go Up
18. Goodbye Everyone

All songs by (Molloy) except:

2. The Itsy Bitsy Spider (Trad/Molloy)
5. Five Little Ducks (Trad/Molloy)
6. Jump Down Turn Around (Trad/Molloy)
7. Where are the Children (Trad/Molloy)
12. If I Had Hands (Trad/Molloy)
14. Round and Round the Garden (Trad/Molloy)
17. Twinkle Twinkle (Trad)
4. Today is Monday (Molloy/Jones)
8. What Kind of Animal (Molloy/Jones)

1. Hello Everyone

This is a lovely opening for a gathering of children. The leader may use a hello puppet and invite participants to clap in rhythm while singing each child's name.

Hello Everyone, it's so nice to see you,
Hello Everyone, it's so nice to see you.
Hello Babies, it's so nice to see you,
Hello Children, it's so nice to see you.
Hello Friends, it's so nice to see you,
Hello Everyone, it's so nice to see you.

2. These are My Eyes

For very young babies, this song can be sung with adult gently tracing the eyes, nose, mouth, arms and fingers of baby while baby lies face up on a comfortable surface. Older children will point to and animate their own bodies while singing!

These are my eyes,
This is my nose,
This is my mouth,
And round my ears it goes.
These are my arms and fingers,
These are my legs and toes,
This is my tummy,
And round and round it goes!

3. Tick Tock

Follow movement indications in italics throughout the song

Tick tock, tick tock, I have a little clock,
Tick tock, tick tock, it's "ticking" on the dot.
(Stand or sit and rock side to side with arms outstretched)

Tick tock, tick tock, I have a little clock,
Tick tock, tick tock, it's "ringing" on the dot.
(Raise arms in air and wiggle hands.)

Tick tock, tick tock, I have a little clock,
Tick tock, tick tock, it's "chiming" on the dot.
(Sound the chiming with arms overhead, opening and closing arms.)

Tick tock, tick tock, it's "spinning" on it's top.
(Turn in place while seated, or stand and turn.)

Tick tock, tick tock, it's "clapping" on the dot.
(Clap in rhythm.)

Tick tock, tick tock, it's "hopping" on its spot.
(Stand and hop in place to rhythm.)

Tick tock, tick tock, it's "jumping" on its spot.
(Jump in place to rhythm.)

Tick tock, tick tock, it's "sleeping" on its spot.
(Lay down and pretend to sleep!)

4. Open Shut Them

Follow movement indications in italics throughout each verse.

Verse 1

Open shut them, open shut them, *(Open and close fists)*
Give a little clap *(Clap)*
Open shut them, open shut them *(Repeat same movements)*
Put them in your lap. *(Hands in lap)*
Creep them crawl them, creep them crawl them, *(Fingers up body)*
Right up to your chin *(Fingers on chin)*
Open wide your little mouth and do not let them in. *(Hands behind back)*

Verse 2

Open shut me, open shut me *(Unfold and fold their bodies)*
Give myself a clap! *(Click heels together in air)*
Open shut me, open shut me, *(Repeat as above)*
Fold me over in my lap! *(Fold nose over to knees)*
Raise me, lower me, *(Raise legs overhead, then lower)*
Right me, left me, *(Lean over to the right, then left)*
Turn me all the way around! *(While seated, turn self around in circle.)*

Verse 3

Open the eyes, shut them, open the eyes, shut them, *(Open and shut eyes)*
Give them a little blink, blink, blink! *(Blink eyes)*
Open the eyes, shut them, open the eyes, shut them, *(Open and shut eyes)*
Give them a little wink, wink, wink! *(Wink with each eye)*
Look up, look down, look right, look left, *(Look up, down, right, left)*
Circle them all the way around, *(Circle eyes around)*
Open wide your little eyes and do not let them be found! *(Peek-a-boo)*

5. Two Little Dickey Birds

This finger play can be done seated or standing.

Two little Dickey birds sitting on a wall, *(Hide hands behind back)*
One named Peter and one named Paul. *(Show one finger for Peter, and one for Paul)*

Fly away Peter, fly away Paul, *(Make hands fly away behind back)*
Come back Peter, and come back Paul! *(Bring hands back out)*

Variation: Repeat indications as above, and add more fingers

Four little Dickey birds sitting on a wall,
Two named Peter and two named Paul,
Fly away Peter, fly away Paul,
Come back Peter, and come back Paul!

Six little Dickey birds sitting on a wall,
Three named Peter and three named Paul....

Eight little Dickey birds sitting on a wall,
Four named Peter and four named Paul....

Ten little Dickey birds sitting on a wall,
Five named Peter and five named Paul....
Variation: Repeat indications as above, and add toes!

Twenty little Dickey birds sitting on a wall,
Ten named Peter, and ten named Paul! *(hold up 10 fingers and 10 toes)*
Fly away Peter, fly away Paul,
Come back Peter, and come back Paul,
AND, give somebody a tickle!

6. Rocking in My Rocking Chair

Follow movement indications throughout song.

Rocking in my rocking chair, *(seated, rock back and forth, arms around knees)*

As happy a can be, *(continue rocking forward and back)*

And then one day that rocking chair,

It tipped right over me, Ohhh! *(roll back with feet and legs overhead in air)*

Verse 2

Became a bicycle in the air! Ohhh! *(roll back with bicycle legs in air)*

Verse 3

Became a candle in the air! Ohhh! *(roll back with legs and feet in air)*

Verse 4

It rolled back and stayed right there! Ohhh! *(roll back and stay!)*

7. My Boat

My Boat can be enjoyed as a circle dance, or with children seated on the floor. As a circle dance, children hold hands and follow the movement lyrics together. If seated, children follow the lyrics but without holding hands.

When I ride on my boat,
Way out at sea,
It tips and sways and blows around,
Holding onto me.

We ride the waves, up and down,
Side to side and `round and `round,
When I ride on my boat,
We're together my boat and me.

We blow to the east, blow to the west,
Blow to the north and south,
Set the sail, hold the course,
Stand and look about.

We see an isle, green and brown,
Reach the shore and turn around.
When I ride on my boat,
We're together my boat and me.

8. One Little Baby

This is a rhythmic chant which can be done as a finger play or be amplified to include the full body movements. Chant is done while seated.

One little baby rocking in the tree,
(Hold up one finger, then make baby rocking motion with arms and torso.)

Two little babies splashing in the sea,
(Hold up two fingers, then tap feet on floor for splashing.)

Three little babies crawling on the floor,
(Hold up three fingers, then crawl fingers down body onto floor.)

Four little babies pounding on the floor,
(Hold up four fingers, then pound floor with fists or palms.)

Five little babies play hide and seek,
(Hold up five fingers, then cover eyes with hands.)

Keep your eyes closed 'till I say, "Peek!"
(Keep hands over eyes until you say "Peek"

9. Hickory Dickory Dock

This song play can be enjoyed both seated and standing.

Hickory Dickory Dock (*clap, clap, clap*)
Tick tock. (*tilt head right, then left*)
The mouse ran up the clock, (*tap feet on floor quickly*)
Tick tock. (*tilt head right, then left*)
The clock struck one, (*hold up one finger*)
Down they run, (*tap feet quickly on floor*)
Hickory Dickory Dock, (*clap, clap, clap*)
Tick tock! (*tilt head right, then left*)

Verse 2

The clock struck two, (*hold up two fingers*)
They said, "Ahhh chooo!" (*sneeze!*)
Hickory Dickory Dock, (*clap, clap, clap*)
Tick tock, tick tock! (*tilt head right, then left 2 times*)

Verse 3

The clock struck three, (*hold up three fingers*)
They all said, "Whee!" (*shout "wheeeee"*)
Tick tock, tick tock, tick tock! (*tilt head right, then left 3 times*)

Verse 4

The clock struck four, (*hold up four fingers*)
They fell on the floor! (*collapse to lying down*)
Tick tock, tick tock, tick tock, tick tock! (*tilt head right, then left 4 times*)

10. Oats, Peas, Beans and Barley Grow

This song is traditionally done as a circle dance, but I like to sing the first verse as a finger play. "Oats" are shown by forming two small round openings with soft open fists. "Peas" are shown by making the two openings smaller. "Beans" are shown by holding the fingers and thumbs flat like long green beans. On "Barley," children wiggle fingers of both hands in the air.

Oats, peas, beans and barley grow,
Oats, peas, beans and barley grow,
Do you or I or anyone know,
How oats, peas, beans and barley grow?

First the farmer sows the seed,
Then he stands and takes his ease,
He stamps his foot and clasps his hands,
Then turns around and views the land.

Waiting for a partner, waiting for a partner,
Open the ring and choose one in,
We will all gaily dance and sing.

11. Pat the Ball

You'll need a ball to play with while following the actions. For variety, you can make up your own lyrics to accompany different activities such as: Shake the Rattle, Tap the Sticks, Clap your Hands, Click your Tongue, Blink your Eyes, and so on.

One little, two little, three little children,
Four little, five little, six little children,
Seven little, eight little, nine little children,
Ten little children go pat, pat, pat.

Pat, pat, pat the ball, *(seated, pat ball with two hands)*
Pat, pat, pat the ball, *(Repeat)*
Pat, pat, pat the ball, *(Repeat)*
Pat the ball today!

Spin, spin, spin the ball *(seated, spin ball in circle)*
Roll, roll, roll on the ball *(lie down on ball on tummy)*
Sit, sit, and bounce on the ball *(sit on ball and bounce)*
Toss, toss, toss the ball *(toss ball in air and catch)*
Kick, kick, kick the ball *(kick ball)*

12. Little Peter Rabbit

Follow the verse indications in italics for the actions while singing along.

Little Peter Rabbit had a fly upon his nose,
Little Peter Rabbit had a fly upon his nose,
Little Peter Rabbit had a fly upon his nose,
And he flicked it and it flew away!

Verse 1 -

Little...*(hold thumb and pointer to indicate "little")*

Rabbit...*(hold fingers above head for ears)*

Fly...*(hold hands at sides and wiggle fingers for wings)*

Nose...*(place finger on nose)*

Verse 2 - Nose...*(delete "nose," say "shhh!" instead, and hold finger to mouth.)*

Verse 3 - Fly...*(delete "fly," say "buzz" instead, and wiggle hands at sides.)*

Verse 4 - Rabbit...*(delete "rabbit," say "ohh" instead, and put hands on head for ears.)*

13. Row, Row, Row Your Boat

In a circle, children can hold hands (or move independently) while doing the actions. The rowing motion moves forward and backward facing into the circle. On "life is but a dream," children roll over backwards lifting feet overhead into the air. As a partner play: children sit facing a partner, holding hands, feet touching, rowing forward and back together. On "life is but a dream," partners let go hands and roll back lifting feet overhead into the air.

Row, row, row your boat,
Gently down the stream,
Merrily, merrily, merrily,
Life is but a dream.

14. Two Little Animals

This seated finger play can also be enjoyed as a full body movement activity.

Two little animals sitting on a hill, *(Hide hands behind back.)*

One named Jack, the other named Jill. *(Bring one finger forward, then the other.)*

Run away Jack, run away Jill, *(Make fingers jump away to behind back)*

Come back Jack, and come back Jill! *(Bring one finger back, then the other)*

Four little animals... *(Four fingers)*

Six little animals... *(Six fingers)*

Eight little animals... *(Eight fingers)*

Ten little animals... *(Ten fingers)*

Variation:

Two little animals sitting on a hill,

One named Jack, the other named Jill

Run away Jack, run away Jill *(boys run away to a designated spot, then girls)*

Come back Jack, come back Jill *(boys return to original location, then girls)*

Try with:

Hop away Jack...

Jump away Jack...

March away Jack...

Turn away Jack...

Fly away Jack...

15. Three Itching Mice

This seated finger song is also enjoyed as a full body movement play. After the finger play verse, children can hop, jump, scamper or crawl to the farmer's wife for variety!

Three itching mice, three itching mice,
See how they run, see how they run!
They all ran after the farmer's wife,
Have you ever seen such a sight in your life,
As three itching mice.

Three itching mice, three itching mice, *(Hold up three fingers, scratch your itches, fingers for whiskers.)*
See how they run, see how they run! *(Point to eyes, then tap feet quickly on floor.)*
They all ran after the farmer's wife, *(Children run from circle and go to the "farmer's wife.")*
Have you ever seen such a sight in your life, *(Children return to circle.)*
As three itching mice! *(Hold up three fingers, scratch your itches, fingers for whiskers.)*

16. Frog on a Lily Pad

This seated rhythmic chant can be done while clapping, or playing with rhythm sticks. As a more complex circle activity, children sit close together facing into the circle and pass a stone or bean bag around to the right in time with the chant. Then, every child in the circle may have their own stone or bean bag and all are passed to the right simultaneously while marking time with rhythm and words.

Frog on a lily pad, green and brown,
Frog on a lily pad, move on down!
Frog on a lily pad, green and blue,
Frog on a lily pad, looking at you!
Frog on a lily pad, green and black,
Frog on a lily pad, move on back!
Frog on a lily pad, green and red,
Frog on a lily pad, goes to bed!
Frog on a lily pad, green and white,
Frog on a lily pad, turn out the light!

17. Here We Go Up

This circle song begins with children standing, holding hands (young ones held by adults). Follow the movement indications as given. Once familiar, you can add your own verses. There are many possibilities!

Here we go up and up,
Here we go down and down,
(Repeat)

Here we go in and in,
Here we go out and out,
(Repeat)

Variations:

Here we go round and round...
Here we go jump and jump...
Here we go wiggle and wiggle...
Now we sit right down...
Now we breathe in and out...
Now we say, "lights out!"

18. Goodbye Everyone

This is a lovely closing song for a gathering of children. The leader can use a favorite puppet to further acknowledge each child's special goodbye moment.

Goodbye everyone, time to say goodbye for now,

Goodbye everyone, time to say goodbye.

Goodbye (name), time to say goodbye for now,

Goodbye (name), time to say goodbye...