

Apples

One apple, two apples,
Three apples, four,
Five Apples, six apple,
Seven apples more
Eight apples, nine apples,
Ten apples in a pie.
Please give me a piece
Or I might cry.

The Donut Shop Game

Pat shares this circle time game based on a familiar children's song and says, "This game teaches color recognition and counting. The children love it!"

In advance cut out several different colored donuts from construction paper. Laminate and place

them in a circle. Children sit in a circle.

Song: The Bakery Shop (*adapted*)

Down around the corner at the bakery shop
There were 9 little donuts with the sugar on top,
Along came (child's name) all alone
She picked up the red one and she ran on home.

The child picks up a colored donut and says the color donut and runs around the circle back to her spot. *Repeat the song until all the donuts are gone.*

Circle Time Song

Teachers can use this song from Sharon at the beginning of circle time to get the children focused and excited about the circle.

Materials: Puppets or stuffed animals of any kind.

Description: We sing this song as one of the first songs once the children are sitting down for circle:

Everybody do this, do this, do this
Everybody do this, just like me.

"This" can be clapping your hands, stomping your feet, touching your toes, etc. Instead of the teacher doing "this" herself, the teacher can use a puppet that is related to the theme the children are studying. Manipulate the puppet to do "this". The children love the idea that they are taking their lead from a puppet!

Counting Fingerplay

Sandy M. shares this new twist on an old chant in which preschool children use movement and rote counting skills.

Description: Have children in your circle on their feet, get a beat going with a clap and a stomp & say "Get your potatoes up! And let's count!" Hold up fists (potatoes) to count with fingers up as indicated:

One potato, two potato, three potato, four!

Well, I made a batch of hot potatoes

(bend forward and stir as in a big pot)

Dropped 'em on the floor!!

(look shocked, and put hands on face in surprise)

Five potato, six potato, seven potato, eight!

So I stomped 'em into mashed potatoes

(stomp feet while walking forward a few steps and then back)

And plopped 'em on a plate

(hands out like plopping potatoes on a plate!)

Nine potato, ten potato, can't believe my eyes!

(cover and uncover eyes in surprise)

The children ate 'em up and now they want some french fries!!!

(Say to children "how many?" and march with swinging arms and stomping feet while counting...)

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 fries!

(jump up and reach over head to sky on 10)

"Again??"

Do the count again, faster and a third time even faster then plop back down to sitting after the last 10.

This is SO aerobic and the children love the notion of making mashed potatoes by stomping. Also intriguing to them is the faster and faster counting to ten.

Comments: Great for rainy days and to reinforce rote counting in very young children. Preschool children also respond to the familiarity and then novelty of the chant.

Easy to Make Rhymes

When preschool and kindergarten teachers make up simple rhymes as Sherry G. suggests, they promote children's counting skills.

Materials: Paper (if you want to make charts) and pictures. I make charts and add 10 of whatever the rhyme is about.

Description: Remember the rhyme **One potato, Two potato**. I make a rhyme every month to go with what theme we are using - Halloween, Christmas, Apples, Fish etc. Here are two examples:

Here's a doughnut so big and fat,
Here's the hole, but you can't eat that!

(In couples facing, with hands joined)

Wash the dishes
(swing hands back and forth)
Dry the dishes
(swing hands back and forth)
Turn the dishes over
(Circle under each other's arms.)

I hold my fingers like a fish,
And wave them as I go,
Through the water with a swish!
So gaily to and fro

The Apple
(tune of Yankee Doodle)
Peel an apple,
Cut it up
Cook it in a pot
When you taste it
You will find
It's applesauce you've got.

Frere Jacques
Gingerbread, gingerbread
Yum, yum, yum,
Yum, yum, yum,
I like gingerbread, I like gingerbread
In my tum, in my tum

Favorite Foods

I like watermelon (I like watermelon), how about you? (How about you?)
Let's eat and eat 'til the day is through! (Let's eat and eat 'til the day is through)*(eating motions)*
Oh, I think I've had enough, *(hands on tummy)*
Let's try something different. . .

(substitute other foods that are children's favorites)

(Last verse, last line. . .)

Let's go out and play!

The Apple Tree

Way up high in the apple tree, *(point up high)*
Two little apples smiling at me; *(make two circles with hands)*
I shook that tree as hard as I could; *(wrap hands around "trunk" and shake)*
Down came the apples and *(two circle hands come down)*
Mmmm, they were good! *(rub tummy)*

Favorite Foods

I like watermelon (I like watermelon), how about you? (How about you?)
Let's eat and eat 'til the day is through! (Let's eat and eat 'til the day is through)(*eating motions*)
Oh, I think I've had enough, (*hands on tummy*)
Let's try something different. . .

(substitute other foods that are children's favorites)

(Last verse, last line. . .) Let's go out and play!

Animal Crackers in My Soup

(Shirley Temple, Curly Top 1935)

Animal crackers in my soup
Monkeys and rabbits loop the loop
Gosh oh gee but I have fun
Swallowing animals one by one.

In every bowl of soup I see
Lions and Tigers watching me
I make 'em jump right through a hoop
Those animal crackers in my soup.

When they're inside me where it's dark
I walk around like Noah's Ark
I stuff my tummy like a goop
With animal crackers in my soup.

On Top of Spaghetti

On top of spaghetti,
All covered with cheese,
I lost my poor meatball,
When somebody sneezed.

It rolled off the table,
And on to the floor,
And then my poor meatball,
Rolled out of the door.

It rolled in the garden,
And under a bush,
And then my poor meatball,
Was nothing but mush.

So if you eat spaghetti,
All covered with cheese,
Hold on to your meatball,
Whenever you sneeze.

Picnic Time

Going on a picnic,
Gotta pack a lunch.
What should we bring to munch, munch, munch?

[list children's ideas of food for a picnic]

[You read from list. . .] Let's bring sandwiches,
[children echo. . .] sandwiches, sandwiches.

[continue with all the foods listed]

Ready for a picnic,
Ready with a lunch,
Now we're ready to munch, munch, munch!

Variations:

#1

Give each child a picture of a food item. Then, for the second verse, you say:
"Who'll bring [sandwiches]?" and the child with that food item answers, "I'll bring [sandwiches]".

#2

Hold up pictures of food items one at a time and, for the second verse, everyone say, "Let's bring [sandwiches, sandwiches, sandwiches]."

Indoor Picnic

content: collaboration/community

setting: snack or lunch

On a particularly cold and icky day, plan an indoor picnic for snack or lunch. Use your (and the children's) imagination and be as authentic as you like! Here are just a few suggestions for "props":

- blankets to spread on the floor;
- sunglasses;
- lemonade;
- electric fan (for a gentle breeze, of course!);
- plastic ants;
- sack lunches;
- ????