

## Baby Talk

When playing with babies don't forget the old rhyming games.



### Pat-a-Cake

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man.

(clap hands together in rhythm)

Bake me a cake as fast as you can.

Roll it and pat it and mark it with "B,"

(do motions)

And put it in the oven for baby and me.

(make motion to put in oven)

### Rain, Rain Go Away

Rain, rain, go away.

Come again another day.

Little (child's name) wants to play!

It's raining. It's pouring.

The old man is snoring.

He went to bed and bumped his head,

And did not get up until morning.



### This Little Piggy

This is fun to do with baby's fingers or toes, one for each line in the poem. For the last line, touch the little finger or toe, then run your fingers gently up the baby to his chin. Most babies will laugh and giggle as a reaction to this.

This little piggy went to market.

This little piggy stayed home.

This little piggy had roast beef.

And this little piggy had none.

This little piggy went wee, wee, wee,

All the way home.



### Rub-a-Dub-Dub

*This adaptation of an old nursery rhyme is good for bath time fun.*

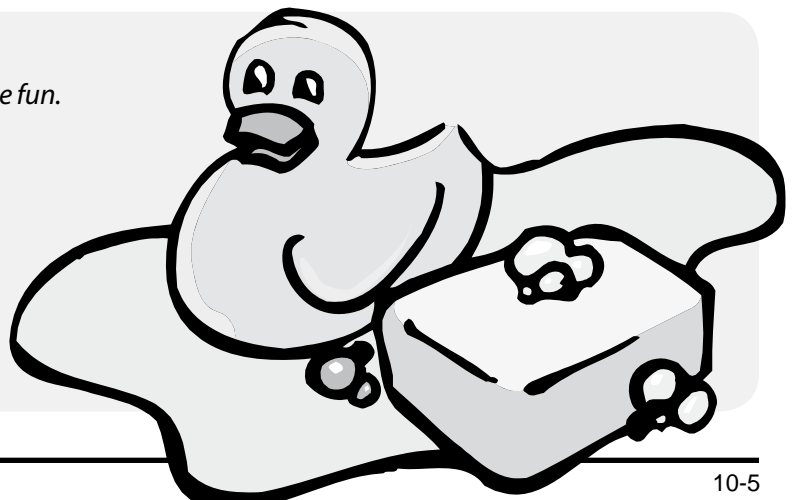
Rub-a-dub-dub,

Three men in a tub.

And who do you think they be?

The butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker,

And our sweet baby I see.



## To Market, To Market

Put the baby on your knee facing you and bounce your knee up and down like a horse while saying this poem. Babies love the up and down motion.

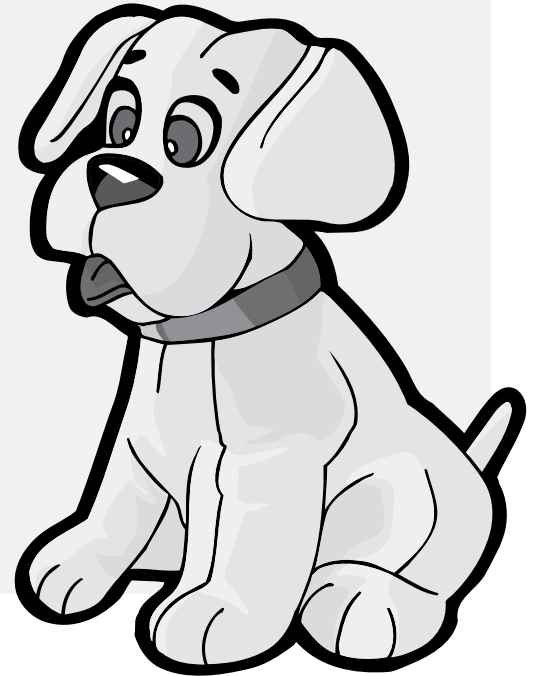
To market, to market, to buy a fat pig.  
Home again, home again, jiggy jig.  
To market, to market, to buy a fat hog.  
Home again, home again, jiggy jog.



## Peek-a-Boo

This traditional game is always fun for babies. There are many ways to play it.

- Put your hands over your face and peek through your fingers. Then take your hands away, saying, "Peek-a-boo, I see you!"
- Use a small pillow or a stuffed animal in front of your face to peek around.
- Use a book or a newspaper for peeking fun.
- A doorway is another place for you to peek from.



## Who Needs Real Toys?

Did you ever notice how much babies love to play with a cardboard box or a plastic container? Take advantage of this and provide clean things from around the house for playtime fun for infants in your care. Don't throw away those old plastic containers, plastic bottles, or boxes. They make great toys!

Make sure the objects are clean. Check for sharp edges. Cover any you find with duct tape. Throw away small lids that a baby could choke on. One way to test a small object or toy is to use a cardboard toilet paper tube. Anything small enough to fit through the tube can be a choking hazard and should be thrown away.

Plastic containers of various sizes are fun for babies to stack and explore.

Babies love to dump things over and over again and can use the containers to do this with blocks and other toys.

A piece of paper can be interesting for a baby to handle. Scrunching it up is fun. The sound of the paper ripping is intriguing. Stay close to supervise, but let the baby explore the paper. Just be sure to prevent the paper from being chewed on and becoming a choking hazard!



## Beginning Readers

Babies will not sit still long to listen to a story, but they do like books. Simple board books with colorful pictures and few words are good to start with. Have board books, cloth, and vinyl books around for babies to look at and explore. Babies often try to chew on books, so the books need to be washed when that happens. Point to the pictures and say what they are. Don't expect the babies to sit still to listen to a story, but after a baby is about eight months old, he should be beginning to understand that books are not for chewing and will be able to listen to a short story. Babies and toddlers love to have favorite stories repeated over and over. This is normal and how they learn. Reading to babies is the first step for learning to read.

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