Songs and Fingerplays

Frisky Squirrel
[tune: The Grand Old Duke of York]
Oh, the frisky little squirrel
He gathers nuts and seeds.
He hides them for the winter months
So he'll have all he needs.
Refrain:
Oh, up-up-up he goes
And down-down-down he comes.
He runs around - goes up and down.
His work is never done.
(repeat refrain)

The Apple Tree
[tune: Rock-a-Bye Baby]
Here is a tree with leaves so green.
[forearms together, elbows to wrists, hands spread]
Here are the apples that hang between.
[clench fists for apples]
When the wind blows
the apples will fall.
[wave arms in the wind and let ‘apples’ fall suddenly]
Here is a basket to gather them all.
[make basket with both hands, fingers interlocked]

Ten Plump Peas
Ten plump peas in a peapod pressed.
[press two fists together]
One grew, two grew, so did all the rest.
[raise one finger up, then two, then wiggle all]
They grew and they grew and did not stop,
[keep wiggling fingers as they “grow” higher]
Until one day the pod went POP!
[clap hands together overhead]

Theme: Harvest Market

Books to Share

What a feast! The autumn harvest season is a time to gather together as we share seasonal foods and express our thanks for the abundance and goodness of the land. Join the multigenerational family in Feast for Ten as they work together to prepare their meal and sit down together to enjoy the food and each other’s company. People aren’t the only ones noticing that fall is in the air! Animals are gathering and storing away yummy things to eat all winter and The Busy Little Squirrel might be the busiest of all! Apple Cake: a Gratitude teaches little ones to celebrate the natural world and give thanks for nature’s gifts—recipe included!

Apple Cake: a Gratitude by Dawn Casey
Feast for Ten by Cathryn Falwell
Let’s Go Apple Picking by Cliff Griswold
Around the Table That Grandad Built by Melanie Heuiser Hill
The Busy Little Squirrel by Nancy Tafuri
Rah, Rah, Radishes! by April Pulley Sayres

Nursery Rhyme: Peter Piper

Music: “I Know a Chicken” from Whaddaya Think of That by Laurie Berkner

Looking for more book ideas?
Check these out!
Every CHILD Ready to READ®

Toddlers love to practice new skills and knowledge. Although adults may tire of the same book, young children need to hear the same story many times to fully understand the chain of events. Hearing a story over and over helps a toddler learn about word sounds, meaning, rhythm, and intonation, in addition to developing an understanding of connected events. At this age, practice play (doing things over and over) also helps toddlers learn. They enjoy practicing the reading of a familiar story. You may even see a toddler read a story to a favorite stuffed animal or doll.
zerotothree.org/brainwonders/EarlyLiteracy.html

Questions or suggestions?
Contact: Melinda Chase @ 410-638-3151 ext. 6351 or chase@hcplonline.org

Try a Fun Activity

Pumpkin Life Cycle Bracelets After discussing how pumpkins grow, help the children make a visual reminder they can wear!

Provide the following supplies for each child, then direct them in the correct order of assembly:

1st-GROUND-brown pipe cleaner
2nd-SEED-light tan bead
3rd-LEAF-dark green bead
4th-BLOSSOM-yellow bead
5th-GREEN PUMPKIN-light green bead
6th-ORANGE PUMPKIN-orange bead

Twist ends of pipe cleaner together, adjusting to fit around the wrist.
Source: makinglearningfun.com

More Rhymes

Applesauce Chant
Source: Sing a Song of Sixpence by Jane Chapman

First you need apples, so pick them, pick them.
[mimic picking apples]
CHORUS:* Apple, Apple,
[slap legs twice, clap hands twice]
Applesauce
[Rub tummy in rhythm]
Put them in the sink and wash them, wash them. *
[pretend to wash]
Then you take the apples and cut them cut them. *
[chopping motion against one hand]
Put them in a pot and cook them, cook them. *
[pretend to stir]
Pour them in a strainer and squeeze them, squeeze them. *
[squeeze hands together]
Take a little sugar and sprinkle it, sprinkle it. *
[pretend to sprinkle]
Then you take the sauce and eat it, eat it! *
[pretend to eat]
HOORAY!

From Seed to Pie
[tune: Farmer in the Dell]
The seed is in the ground.
The seed is in the ground.
Hi-ho, the pumpkin patch!
The seed is in the ground.

Continue with these lines:
The seed grows a sprout.
The sprout grows a vine.
The vine grows a bloom.
The bloom grows a pumpkin.
We make a pumpkin pie

I Love You All The Time by Deborah Farmer Kris PTC E Kris

Parents and teachers want strategies for helping preschoolers manage their emotions. But to effectively teach emotional self-regulation strategies, children first need to know they are safe and loved—all the time. Even when they lose their temper, even when they stay up too late, or lose their shoes, or yell at their friend. The steady love of a caregiver can help children thrive, even when life is challenging.

I Love You All the Time speaks to the power of caregivers’ steady love to help children develop confidence, resilience, and emotional agility with words of affirmation for kids.