

**The Ninjabread Man by C.J. Leigh, pub 2016, \$16.99, ages - preschool - grade 2**

Concepts: dance, vocabulary, self-regulation

Create a sound story using classroom instruments or found instruments:

- sensei - cymbals
- bear - drums
- snake - sand blocks
- mouse - shakers
- fox - jingle bells
- Ninjabread Man - sticks

Dance to a pop song: "Kung Fu Fighting" by Just Dance Kids, available from iTunes

1. march
2. double punch
3. raise the roof
4. kicks
5. slide
6. during the bridge: chops then waddle

**Five Little Ducks (Raffi Songs to Read), illustrated by Jose Aruego and Adriane Dewey, pub 1999, ages - preschool. Paperback - \$6.95, Boardbook - \$4.95**

**Pete the Cat: Five Little Ducks by James Dean, pub 2017, ages - preschool, \$9.99**

Concepts: steady beat, passing right to left

Subtraction Game for Pete the Cat or 5 Little Ducks: Give each child a baggie with 5 yellow pompoms inside. Ask children to take their "ducks" out and place them on the floor. As you read the book, children put one "duck" at a time back in the bag.

Stick Passing Game for 6 Little Ducks (Stick Tapping Game), video on Pinterest as Six Little Ducks by Anthony Meehl. This same video is on youtube. A recording by Raffi, "6 Little Ducks" is available at Amazon or iTunes.

6 little ducks that I once knew,  
Fat ones, skinny ones, fair ones too.  
But the one little duck with the feather on his back  
He led the others with his "Quack, quack, quack."  
"Quack, quack, quack. Quack, quack, quack."  
He led the others with his "Quack, quack, quack."

To play the game:

1. Children are seated cross legged on the floor in a circle. Each child holds one rhythm stick
2. Children tap their sticks as the song is sung:
  - 2 times on R knee (beats 1 - 2)
  - 2 times on L knee (beats 3 - 4)
  - 3 times on the floor (beats 1 - 2 - 3)
  - pass stick to the child to their R (beat 4)

For younger children, do not pass the stick. Instead, tap the stick on the floor for all 4 beats.

**A Hunting We Will Go, by Steven Kellogg, pub 1998, ages - preschool - grade 2 - out of print but available on Amazon for \$5 - \$6.**

**A Hunting We Will Go, by John Langstaff, pub. 1991, ages - preschool - grade 3 - out of print but available from Amazon for \$3.47.**

**Dog on a Frog by Res and Claire Gray, pub 2016, ages - preschool, \$16.99**

Concepts: recognizing and creating rhyme, play a singing game

Game: This is played similar to "London Bridge." Decide on a magic word with the class. The teacher and a child form a bridge with their arms. Decide on the animal you will sing about. As you sing the verse, children will walk under the bridge. When you sing the line " We'll find a **fox** and put him in a **box**," the bridge will capture a child. On the line "And then we'll let him go," the captured child becomes part of the bridge.

Choose another animal to sing about and repeat the game with the bridge becoming larger after each new verse. Ex: "We'll find a **dog** and put him on a **log**."

After a few verses, the teacher will call out the magic word. This is the cue for all children who are part of the bridge to drop hands and become part of the line again. You may chose a new child to make a new bridge with the teacher.

Song: A Hunting We Will Go - there are many versions on youtube

"A hunting we will go. A hunting we will go.

We'll find a **fox** and put him in a **box**.

And then we'll let him go."

Create a class book using the format from the song.

**"Happy," the book by Pharrell Williams - \$19.99, pub 2016, ages - 3 - 7 years**

**"Happy," the song by Pharrell Williams available on iTunes or Amazon**

Concepts: expressive movement, dramatic play, enjoyment of a "pop" song

1. Read the book while listening to the song "Happy" by Pharrell Williams
2. Set up a number of costume/prop areas in your room. Divide children into groups and allow them to dress up or choose a prop with which to do their "happy" dance
3. Put on the music to "Happy" by Pharrell Williams and allow children to move or dance to the song. You may do this part as a "Freeze Dance"
4. Make a class book similar to the original book:
  - \* use photos of your children in costumes dancing
  - \* use shapes, stickers, cotton balls, feathers, sequins, etc. to embellish each page

**Chickens to the Rescue by John Himmelman, pub 2006, approx \$16.00 from Amazon or Barnes and Noble, ages - preschool - grade 3**

Concepts: sequencing, dance, use of instruments

The Chicken Dance - music available through Amazon or iTunes

Hooked on Books presented by Devora Miller, [devoralee@yahoo.com](mailto:devoralee@yahoo.com)

I Know a Chicken by Laurie Berkner -music available through Amazon or iTunes - use shakers  
The Barnbell Farm

View "Chickens to the Rescue" performed by maywoodfinearts on youtube - Fantastic!

**I Went Walking by Sue Williams, pub 1990, priced \$6 - \$14 on Amazon, ages - preschool  
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See by Eric Carle**

Concepts: color recognition

Game: Materials: a variety of stuffed animals

Before the game begins allow each child to choose a stuffed animal. To play, children are seated in a circle on the floor. Teacher begins the game by walking around the outside of the circle singing the song and choosing a child holding the animal she is singing about:

Song: tune: Free Jacque

All: I went walking, I went walking  
All: What did you see, what did you see?  
Child Walking: I saw a grey cat, I say a grey cat  
All: Looking at me, looking at me.

The child chosen (child holding the grey cat) takes the place of the teacher outside the circle. Sing and play again.

**The Greedy Python by Richard Buckley, illus Eric Carle, pub 2012, ages preschool - gr 1**

Concepts: manners, friendship, respect

Song: "I'm Being Swallowed by a Boa Constrictor" by The Chenille Sisters, available on iTunes  
Give each child a green sock to wear on their hand. Dramatize as you sing the song.

**I'm being swallowed by a boa constrictor,  
I'm being swallowed by a boa constrictor,  
I'm being swallowed by a boa constrictor,  
And I don't like it very much.**

**Oh no (oh no) he swallowed my toe.  
Oh me (oh me) he swallowed my knee  
Oh fiddle (oh fiddle) he's up to my middle  
Oh heck (oh heck) he swallowed my neck  
Oh dread, he's up to my  
(slurp gulp)**

This is a silly song to create additional lyrics:

Oh why - he swallowed my thigh  
Oh zinger - he swallowed my finger  
Oh dear - he swallowed by ear

**Your Alien by Tammi Sauer, pub 2015, \$7.72 from Amazon, ages - preschool - grade 2**

**Your Alien Returns by Tammi Sauer, pub 2016**

Concepts: friendship, kindness, compassion

Song: We Come From Pluto by Denise Gagne - available on iTunes