



# Opening the Gift



Vol. 23 No. 5

Yes, No, Fast, Slow

January 2020

**Stop, Go, Yes, No! A Story of Opposites** by Mike Twohy  
**In! Over! and On! (the Farm)** by Ethan Long  
**Big Bear, Small Mouse** by Karma Wilson  
**Whoosh and Chug!** by Sebastien Braun  
**Big, Bigger, Biggest!** by Nancy Coffelt  
**Big Cat, Small Cat** by Ami Rubinger  
**Animal Opposites** by Petr Horáček  
**Bears Are Big** by Douglas Florian  
**Dot** by Patricia Intriago



## Nursery Rhyme: London Bridge Songs & Fingerplays to Share



CD: "Oh Children Ring Your Bells" from *I Love To Hear the Sounds* by Kathy Reid-Naiman

### If You're Happy and You Know It, Opposites Style

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands  
If you're happy and you know it clap your hands

If you're happy and you know it  
and you really want to show it

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands!

Repeat with

Sad – say boo-hoo

Hungry – Rub your belly

Full – Say I'm full

Dirty – Wash your face

Clean – Shout Hooray!

### Roly Poly

(tune: Frere Jacques)

Roly poly, roly poly

Up, up, up! Up, up, up!

Roly, roly poly, Roly roly poly,

Down, down, down. Down, down down.

Repeat with In and Out, Fast and Slow.

### This Is Big

This is big, big, big

(stretch hands far to sides)

This is small, small, small

(cup hands together)

This is short, short, short

(hold palms close vertically)

This is tall, tall, tall

(hold palms far apart vertically)

This is fast, fast, fast

(roll hands quickly)

This is slow, slow, slow

(roll hands slowly)

This is yes, yes, yes

(nod head)

This is no, no, no

(shake head)

*Mel's Desk blog*

### I Say Fast

*A Call Back Rhyme*

I say slow and you say...FAST!

Slow! Fast! Slow! Fast!

I say up and you say...DOWN!

Up! Down! Up! Down!

I say quiet and you say...LOUD!

Quiet! Loud! Quiet! Loud!

I say clean and you say...DIRTY!

Clean! Dirty! Clean! Dirty!

I say sad and you say...HAPPY!

Sad! Happy! Sad! Happy!

I say big and you say...SMALL!

Big! Small! Big! Small!

### Green Says Go

Green says, "Go!" (march quickly)

Go! Go! Go!

Yellow says, "Slow!" (march slowly)

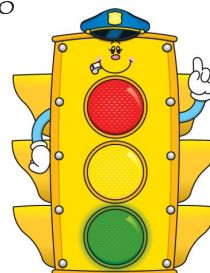
Slow...slow...slow

And red says, "Stop!" (stop and freeze)

Go! Go! Go! (march fast)

Slow...slow...slow (march slowly)

and STOP! (stop)



**Your next visit will be: February \_\_\_\_\_**

**Next month's theme will be: "I ♥ Art"**

# More Books to Share:

**Little Big** by Jonathan Bentley

**Up and Down** by Britta Teckentrup

**Different? Same!** by Heather Tekavec

**Octopus Opposites** by Stella Blackstone

**Over and Under the Snow** by Kate Messner

**The Crayola Opposites Book** by Jodie Shepherd

**Up! Tall! and High! (But Not Necessarily In That Order.)** by Ethan Long



## Activity Ideas:

**Simon Says the Opposite:** Play a version of Simon Says that encourages children to think about opposites. In this version, children are challenged one at a time to think of an opposite movement when Simon says "jump very high," "keep your arms still," "wiggle your arms," or "move slowly." Invite children to take turns being "Simon." [scholastic.com](http://scholastic.com)

**Loud and quiet sound bottles:** Use empty plastic bottles to create a sound game. Each bottle must produce a different type of sound when children shake it. Some bottles should produce loud sounds while other bottles should produce quiet sounds. For example, one bottle could contain rice while another bottle could contain dried peas. A few additional suggestions: tiny bells, tiny rocks used in aquariums, and dry pasta. Use items that will barely produce a sound such as couscous, water, and pompoms to create "quiet" bottles. Seal the cap on each bottle using hot glue and let children shake them to explore different sounds. Use the words "loud" and "quiet" during their exploration. [educatall.com](http://educatall.com)

## Book of the Month:

*Where's the Math? Books, Games & Routines to Spark Children's Thinking*  
by Mary Hynes-Berry & Laura Grandau PTC 372.7044 H



Make math learning both meaningful and fun by building on children's natural curiosity to help them grow into confident problem solvers and investigators of math concepts. Using five math-related questions children wonder about as a framework, this book helps you go deeper into everyday math with children by offering ♦A basic overview of math ideas behind matching and sorting, patterns, number sense, measuring, and spatial relationships♦20 activities appropriate for children in preschool and kindergarten based on new and classic children's books, games, and classroom routines ♦Suggestions for individualizing activities for diverse learners ♦Recommendations for more than 75 children's books that encourage math-rich thinking and investigation ♦Examples of intentional questions, comments, and conversations that stretch and focus children's understanding of math concepts. Empower yourself with the guidance and ideas in this practical resource to use play and storytelling to challenge children to think more complexly about the math in everything they see, hear, and do. - (Perseus Publishing)

## Road to Reading Tip:

**Story Time and School Readiness:** School readiness means that a child is ready to learn how to do things independently and enter a social and educational environment. A school ready child should be able to:



- Express thoughts
- Listen and ask questions
- Speak with others
- Use a growing vocabulary
- Be curious, active, and want to learn
- Follow directions
- Work by himself and with others
- Be familiar with "classroom setup" (e.g., teacher at front)
- Think before she acts
- Share and take turns
- Be experienced with and excited about books
- Be aware of language and written words
- Understand how words are put together

*excerpted from prattlibrary.org*

Library programs such as story time offer group experiences and a chance for children to develop listening skills and self-control, along with helping them become comfortable with other adults – all of which are necessary for school success.

*excerpted from Scholastic Parent & Child magazine*



**Harford County  
Public Library**

**Questions or Suggestions?** Call Melinda Chase, Bel Air Branch, 410-638-3151, ext. 6351  
If you have an urgent message for me, please speak with the operator, 410-638-4800 (starting at 8am)  
or call the Opening the Gift cell phone, 443-608-9881  
email: [chase@hcplonline.org](mailto:chase@hcplonline.org)

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