

# Opening the Gift

Vol. 23 No. 7

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## Twinkle Toes



**Silly Sally** by Audrey Wood  
**Brontorina** by James Howe  
**Bea At Ballet** by Rachel Isadora  
**How Do You Dance?** by Thyra Heder  
**Dance With Me** by Charles R. Smith Jr.  
**Hop, Hop, Jump!** by Lauren Thompson  
**Hilda Must Be Dancing** by Karma Wilson



**Who Has Wiggle-Waggle Toes?** by Vicky Shiefman  
**Katy Duck and the Tip-Top Tap Shoes** by Alyssa Satin Capucilli

## Nursery Rhyme: Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush

### Songs & Fingerplays to Share



CD: "Shake A Leg" by Norman Foote from *Exercise Dance Party*



#### Watermelon Song

(tune: Frere Jacques)

Watermelon, watermelon  
Papaya, papaya  
Banana-na-nana, banana-na-nana  
Fruit salad! Fruit salad!



#### We Can Jump, Jump, Jump

We can jump, jump, jump  
We can hop, hop, hop.  
We can clap, clap, clap.  
We can stop, stop, stop.  
We can shake our heads for yes.  
We can shake our heads for no.  
We can bend our knees slowly  
and sit down just so!



#### Here We Go Looby Loo

(Join hands and go around in a circle; suit actions to words)

Here we go looby loo,  
Here we go looby light,  
Here we go looby loo,  
All on a Saturday night.  
You put your right hand in  
You put your right hand out  
You give your hand a shake, shake, shake  
And turn yourself about.  
Repeat with : left hand, right foot, left foot, whole self

#### Tommy Thumbs

Tommy thumbs are up, (thumbs up)  
Tommy thumbs are down. (thumbs down)  
Tommy thumbs are dancing,  
(move thumbs up and down)  
All around the town.  
Dance them on your shoulders,  
(tap thumbs on shoulders)  
Dance them on your head,  
(tap thumbs on head)  
Dance them on your knees,  
(tap thumbs on knee)  
And tuck them into bed.  
(tuck thumbs under opposite arms)

Put your two arms up,  
And put your two arms down.  
Make your two arms do  
A dance around the town.  
Straighten them in front,  
And straighten them in back,  
Bend them to the sides,  
And now you lay them flat.

Your next visit will be: April \_\_\_\_\_  
Next month's theme will be: "All A-Flutter"





## More Books to Share:

- Jazz Baby* by Lisa Wheeler
- Salsa Lullaby* by Jen Arena
- Deer Dancer* by Mary Lyn Ray
- Dancing Feet!* by Lindsey Craig
- Glad, Glad Bear!* by Kimberly Gee
- Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae
- Hip-Hop Lollipop* by Susan McElroy Montanari

## Activity Ideas:

**BODY MIRRORS:** Invite your children to choose partners and stand facing each other. Have one partner be the "mirror partner." As the other partner follows directions you give for moving different parts of the body, have the "mirror partner" copy the movements exactly. Then let the partners trade places and follow another set of directions that you give. [preschoolexpress.com](http://preschoolexpress.com)

**Play Back:** Youngsters develop auditory skills with this nifty idea! Give each child a rhythm instrument and select one for yourself. Play your instrument a specific number of times. Then prompt little ones to play their instruments the same number of times. After a few rounds, pick up the tempo for some giggle-inducing fun!

**Ribbon Dancers:** Give each child a length of ribbon (or crepe paper streamer) and have her stand. Then lead youngsters in singing the song several times while they move their ribbons as described. [themailbox.com](http://themailbox.com)



(sung to the tune of "Alouette")  
 Ribbon dancers, we are ribbon dancers.  
 Ribbon dancers, swirling all around.  
 We can swirl to the left.  
 We can swirl to the right.  
 To the left, to the right,  
 To the left, to the right,  
 Oh, oh, oh, oh.

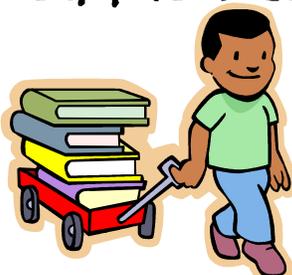
(stand and swirl your ribbon)  
 (swirl your ribbon up high and down low)  
 (swirl your ribbon to the left)  
 (swirl your ribbon to the right)  
 (swirl it to the left and then right)  
 (swirl it to the left and then right)  
 (swirl it down to the floor and then up again)



## Book of the Month:

*The Joy of Movement: Lesson Plans and Large-Motor Activities for Preschoolers* by Mary Lynn Hafner PTC 372.86 H  
 A preschool movement activity book with a therapeutic perspective, *The Joy of Movement* includes quick and easy large-motor movement activities for three- to six-year-olds to maximize their development. The combination of old and new games creates a purpose driven physical motor curriculum. Each activity has been kid tested. This well-organized and easy-to-use book includes fun, developmentally appropriate activities that foster physical development and build self-esteem. The activities are built around developmental motor milestones and are flexible enough to encourage skill development for a variety of learners.

## Road to Reading Tip:



**Make Music a Part of Your Daily Life:** Play music CDs or audiotapes to inspire your child to listen, move, dance, and sing along. Play them in the car or at home. Encourage your child to feel the rhythm of the music. Dance, clap, and sway to the sounds. Join your toddler while watching quality children's videos – A Young Children's Concert with Raffi is great fun.

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/making-music-literacy-tips-parents>

