

Rhythms & Rhymes for Special Times
by Jack Hartmann, M.A., BMI

1 – Little Hands

Teaching tips – an easy to sing start-the-day song. Follow action words then make up your own actions to the soundtrack on CD32, Cass – 17.

Little hands, get ready--get ready to work and play
Clap, clap, clap your little hands--get ready to
start the day

Little hips, get ready—get ready to work and play
Shake, shake, shake your little hips—get ready to
start the day

Little feet, get ready—get ready to work and play
Twist, twist, twist your little feet—get ready to
start the day

Hands get ready—Clap, clap, clap, hips get ready—Shake, shake, shake
Feet get ready—Twist, twist, twist, are you ready to
start the day
I'm ready

Little knees, get ready—get ready to work and play
Tap, tap, tap your little knees—get ready to
start the day

Little arms, get ready—get ready to work and play
Reach, reach, reach your little arms—get ready to
start the day

Little hands, get ready—get ready to work and play
Clap, clap, clap your little hands—get ready to
start the day

Knees get ready—Tap, tap, tap
Arms get ready—Reach, reach, reach
Hands get ready—Clap, clap, clap
Are you ready to start the day
I'm ready

2 – It's Your Birthday

Teaching Tips – make up some fun movements for action words and fill in the birthday boy/girl's name after "happy birthday _____." Make up some new words & movements with the soundtrack CD31, Cass.-16.

You can swing with some monkeys in a coconut tree – it's your birthday
You can be the captain of a big boat at sea – it's your birthday
You can dance the hula with palm trees in the sand – it's your birthday
You can play electric guitar with a rock and roll band – it's your birthday

Chorus

Happy birthday (child's name)

Happy birthday to you

We're glad to say, it's your day

It's your birthday

You can hop with a kangaroo to the toy store

– It's your birthday

You can ride on an eagle and glide and soar

– it's your birthday

You can be the strongest in the world with big muscles

– it's your birthday

You can really be happy just to be you

– it's your birthday

Repeat Chorus

3 – Schooltime is Here (Aug.)

Teaching Tips – children sing along as they start school in August. Children can discuss fun summer activities and new friends and things they'll do in the school year.

Good-bye to summer, we had fun – a new school year has just begun

It's August, schooltime is here

We'll make lots of new friends, we'll have lots of fun

We'll work together, play together, sharing smiles and lots of love

Good-bye to summer, we had fun – a new school year has just begun

It's August, schooltime is here – it's August, schooltime

4 – Schooltime is Here (Sept.)

Teaching Tips – children sing along as they start school in September. Children can discuss fun summer activities and new friends and things they'll do in the school year.

Good-bye to summer, we had fun – a new school year has just begun
September, schooltime is here

We'll make lots of new friends, we'll have lots of fun
We'll work together, play together, sharing smiles and lots of love
Good-bye to summer, we had fun – a new school year has just begun
September, schooltime is here. It's September, schooltime is here.

5 – We Start the Season of Fall (Sept.)

Teaching Tips – children sing along in September and talk about the season of fall.

Chorus
September, September a month
we'll remember
September, September we start the season of fall
We start the season of fall – we have 30 days that's all
All children are back at school, there's so much
we can do

Repeat Chorus

6 – Rockin into October

Teaching Tips – children sing along in October and answer "October". Discuss the fall, Halloween and special events in October.

If the leaves are falling from the trees, what month is it? – October
If it's getting close to Halloween, what month is it?
– October
If girls and boys will soon be trick or treating, what month is it?
– October
If the leaves are falling from the trees, it's getting close to Halloween.
Girls and boys are trick or treating, what month is it?—October

7 – Follow Me to the Apple Tree

Teaching Tips – it's apple picking time and children sing and move along. Use with teaching activities on the fall and do some hands-on activities with apples.

Chorus

Follow me to the apple tree, won't you come along
Follow me to the apple tree, I just love the fall
The weather's cool, colors glow, leaves are falling
Come on, let's go!

Let's walk, let's walk, let's walk right up the hill
Let's walk, let's walk, let's walk right up the hill
Let's hop, let's hop, let's hop across the field
Let's hop, let's hop, let's hop across the field

Repeat Chorus

Let's paddle, let's paddle, let's paddle across the lake
Let's paddle, let's paddle, let's paddle across the lake
Let's skip, let's skip, let's skip along the stream
Let's skip, let's skip, let's skip along the stream

Let's pick the apples from the apple tree,
I'm glad you came along
Eat the apples so nice and sweet,
we'd better hurry home
Let's go!

Let's skip, let's skip, let's skip along the stream
Let's paddle, let's paddle, let's paddle across
the lake
Let's hop, let's hop, let's hop across the field
Let's walk, let's walk, let's walk right down the hill

8 – 4 Seasons

Teaching Tips – children can share ideas on special events with each season.

Winter, spring, summer and fall
There are four seasons – four seasons in all
Winter, spring, summer and fall
Can you tell me some things about winter
Can you tell me some things that you know
Can you tell me some things about springtime
Can you tell me some things that you know

Winter, spring, summer and fall
There are four seasons – four seasons in all
Winter, spring, summer and fall

Can you tell me some things about summer
Can you tell me some things that you know
Can you tell me some things about fall
Can you tell me some things that you know

Winter, spring, summer and fall
There are four seasons – four seasons in all
Winter, spring, summer and fall

9 – Friends and Family (Nov.)

Teaching Tips – children sing along in November and share special events (i.e. Thanksgiving, pilgrims, Indians, families together).

Colder weather on the way, celebrate Thanksgiving Day
Friends and family all together in the month of November
(Repeat)

We'll meet the native Americans, we'll meet the pilgrims
We'll celebrate together – in the month of November
Celebrate Thanksgiving Day. In the month of November

10 – Give Thanks

Teaching Tips – children sing along and share their own reasons to give thanks. Talk about things to be thankful for through the year.

On Thanksgiving Day and every day of the year
On Thanksgiving Day and every day of the year
For the friends that I have, school where I go, home where I live – I give thanks
For the fun that I have, things that I do, food that I eat
– I give thanks

Chorus

On Thanksgiving Day and every day of the year
On Thanksgiving Day and every day of the year
Give thanks, every day of the year
Give thanks, every day of the year

For the hugs that I get, teachers I have, love that I feel,
I give thanks
For little puppy dogs, bright sunny days, my family,
I give thanks

Repeat Chorus

11 – Powwow

Teaching Tips – Native American celebrate their heritage and traditions at a powwow. Children can move and dance to all the action words.

Fly like the eagle, run like the deer
Swim like the fish, growl like the bear
Slither like the snake, creep like the fox
Hop like the rabbit, prowl like the wolf

Twinkle like the star, shine like the sun
Blow like the wind, grow like the flower
Flow like the mountain stream, turn like the earth
Rumble like the thunder, fall like the rain

12 – It's the Holiday Time of the Year (Dec.)

Teaching Tips – sing along in December and discuss special holidays and different traditions Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa.

It's the holiday time of the year, season filled with cheer
It's the holiday time of year, December now is here
It's the last month of the year, soon the New Year comes
It's the wintertime of year, for Christmas,
Hanukkah, Kwanzaa
Happy Holidays everyone
It's the holiday time of year, a season filled with cheer
It's the holiday time of year, December now is here (2X)

13 – Hanukkah, Hanukkah

Teaching Tips – an easy to sing song with basic counting skills to celebrate Hanukkah. Children sing the numbers. Children can sing on their own to soundtrack on CD Track 28, Cassette Side B, 13.

Hanukkah, Hanukkah – the first night, how many candles do we light
One, one, one, one, one
Hanukkah, Hanukkah – the second night, how many candles do we light
Two, two, two, two, two
Hanukkah, Hanukkah – the third night, how many candles do we light
Three, three, three, three, three
Hanukkah, Hanukkah – the fourth night, how many candles do we light
Four, four, four, four, four
Hanukkah, Hanukkah – the fifth night, how many candles do we light
Five, five, five, five, five
Hanukkah, Hanukkah – the sixth night, how many candles do we light
Six, six, six, six, six
Hanukkah, Hanukkah – the seventh night, how many candles do we light
Seven, seven, seven, seven, seven
Hanukkah, Hanukkah – the eighth night, how many candles do we light
Eight, eight, eight, eight, eight

Hanukkah, Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights

14 – Milton the Dancing Christmas Mouse

Teaching Tips – children can have fun moving and dancing like Milton, he's so cute.

It was the night before Christmas
and all through the house
There was one creature stirring, it was Milton the Mouse
He was swinging his tail under the Christmas tree
Then he said, "I love to dance, will you dance with me"

Chorus

He started shaking, just like this, twisting with his arms and hips
Hopping the Reindeer Hop, rocking – he wouldn't stop
Then I said, "Hey, little mouse what is this all about"
"I'm Milton the Dancing Christmas Mouse"
He loves to dance all around the house
"I'm Milton the Dancing Christmas Mouse – I like to move"
Then Milton started moving like a choo choo train
He went chugga chugga, chugga like a choo choo train
choo, choo follow me, let's do the chicken
Dance around the Christmas tree

Repeat Chorus

I like to move, oh yeah! I like to move
He loves to dance all around the house
"I'm Milton the Dancing Christmas Mouse"

15 – Celebrate Kwanzaa

Teaching Tips – there are 7 days of Kwanzaa (12/26 – 1/1) and 7 principles called Nguzo Saba. In Swahili, the word Kwanzaa means “first.” Children can do different moves/dances to each of the 7 principles.

Chrous
Jambo
Kwanzaa – Nguzo Saba

Light the lights, celebrate
Kwanzaa – Nguzo Saba
Light the lights, celebrate
Umoja, unity
Kujichagulia, you can be whatever you want to be
Ujima, working together

Repeat Chorus

Ujamaa, cooperation
Nia, purpose
Kuumba, creativity
Imani, faith
Repeat Chorus

16 – The First month of the year (Jan.) – 1 Side B

Teaching Tips – sing along in January and fill in the new year, “this year is ____.” Discuss celebrations in January (i.e. the 3rd Monday in January is Martin Luther King Jr. Day).

January, January is here, it’s the first month of the year
Everybody clap and give a cheer, January,
January is here
This year is ____ and there’s so much we can do
Each year starts with January, hope it’s happy
for me and you
And your family too
January, January is here, it’s the first month of the year

17 – Rise Up – M.L.K. Day – 2

Teaching Tips – celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Stand in small or large circles and follow movements. Discuss Dr. King's dreams and life.

Stand in a circle, clap your hands, stand in a circle of peace
People all together celebrate Martin Luther King
Sway in a circle, holding hands, sway in a circle of peace
People all together celebrate Martin Luther King

Chorus

He believed we would rise up, live all
together in peace

He believed we would rise up, people
everywhere would be free
Reach high in a circle, to the sky, reach high in a circle of peace
People all together celebrate Martin Luther King

Repeat Chorus

He believed in love, so clap your hands
He believed in brotherhood, so swing and sway
He believed in hope, so reach up high
He believed in people, so hold a hand
He believed we would rise up, Martin Luther King

18 – 100 Days of School Today – 3

Teaching Tips – celebrate completing 100 days of school with singing and counting by 10's

100 days, 100 days, 100 days of school today
So clap and sway, and say, hurray
100 days of school today

Let's count, come on everybody
10,20, 30,40,50,60,70,80,90 100 days (2X)
100 days, 100 days, 100 days of school today
So clap and sway, and say, hurray!
Say cool, say awesome, say all right
100 days of school today

19 – The Year's – Shortest Month (Feb.) – 4

Teaching Tips – sing along in February. Discuss love, friendship and how we show each other care and love.

It's February, it's February, it's the year's shortest
Month
It's February, it's February, it's filled with lots of love
February 14th is the day that we love to celebrate
February 14th we take time to say I care with valentines
On Valentine's Day
It's February, it's February, and it's filled with
lots of love

20 – Be My Valentine – 5

Teaching Tips – let's pretend you are a fish and a dog. Follow action words and have fun.

If you were a fish on this special day,
whatever you do, I'll do the same way
Cause I want to say something special to you,
so whatever you do, I'll do it too
If you swim fast, I'll swim fast –
if you swim slow, I'll swim slow
If you dive deep, I will too – If you jump up,
that's what I'll do
And when you stop, just to rest for awhile,
I'll swim to you and say
Be, be my valentine, be, be my valentine, be,
be my valentine
If you were a dog on this special day, whatever
you do I'll do the same way
Cause I want to say something special to you,
so whatever you do, I'll do it too
If you wag your tail, I'll wag my tail –
if you wiggle your ears, I'll wiggle my ears
If you jump up and down, I will too –
If you beg for a bone, that's what I'll do.
And when you stop, just to rest for awhile,
I'll run to you and say
Be, be, be my , be my, be, be my valentine,
be, be my valentine
Be, be my valentine, be my valentine

21 – Sing Into Spring (Mar.) – 6

Teaching Tips – sing along in March. Discuss springtime and special ways to celebrate the beginning of spring.

Sing, sing, sing into spring, March is the month
that spring begins
Sing, sing, sing into spring, March is the month
that spring begins
Winter will end, spring will begin – flowers
will grow and soon bloom again
We'll all wear green, we'll sing and play
as we have fun on St. Patrick's Day
Sing, sing, sing into spring, March is the month
that spring begins (2X)

22 – Bunny Boogie – 7

Teaching Tips – make some bunny ears and boogie.

When I woke up this morning, Easter eggs
were on my mind
So I ran out in the backyard just to see what I could find
Bunny Boogie, got to hop and hop, Bunny Boogie,
guess I'll never stop
Well I found them in the bushes, and I found
them on the ground
So I got my little basket and I boogied all around
Bunny Boogie, got to hop and hop,
Bunny Boogie, guess I'll never stop
I took them to the kitchen and I ate up 3 or 4
Then I ran out in the backyard just to try to
find some more
Bunny Boogie, got to hop and hop, Bunny Boogie,
guess I'll never stop
Now I boogie in the springtime and I boogie in the fall I do the Bunny Boogie because I
dig it most of all
Bunny Boogie, got to hop and hop, Bunny Boogie,
guess I'll never stop
Bunny Boogie, got to hop and hop, Bunny Boogie,
guess I'll never stop
Hop, hop, hop

23 – Celebrate the Spring (Apr.) – 8

Teaching Tips – sing along in April and discuss the life cycle, flowers growing, warmer weather and spring.

In April – raindrops flow, in April – flowers grow
In April we dance and play and sing
As we celebrate the spring – raindrops flow, flowers grow
We dance and play and sing – as we celebrate the spring
In April – raindrops, in April - flowers grow
In April we dance and play and sing
As we celebrate the spring – as we celebrate the spring

24 – The Good Earth – 9

Teaching Tips – sing together for Earth Day and discuss ways to protect and care for all our natural resources.

It's the good earth, where I live, the good earth
so much to give
It's the good earth, the only one, the good earth
That I love
It's the good earth, blue and green, the good earth so much to see
It's the good earth, so beautiful, the good earth
that I love

Repeat First Verse

25 – The Beautiful Month of May (May) – 10

Teaching Tips – sing along in May and discuss activities we can do in warmer weather and changes in the environment.

Flowers bloom children play, summertime is
on the way (2X)

It's getting warmer day by day, all in the
beautiful month of May

26 – Summer Days (Jun.) – 11

Teaching Tips – sing along in June. Reflect on your accomplishments and celebrate the start of summer.

Summer days and summer nights, they will be here soon
We're near the end of this school year, it's the
month of June

We worked and played and learned a lot this
year at our school

But now it's right for summertime, it's the month of June
Warmer days, time to play, things we like to do
So have some fun everyone, it's the month of June

27 – Summertime (July) – 12

Teaching Tips – if you're in school, sing along in July and discuss 4th of July, summer plans and fun ways to keep cool.

Summertime, summertime – it's the month of July (2X)
Vacations, fun in the sun, Independence Day, freedom for everyone
Summertime, summertime – it's the month of July (2X)
Celebrate, clap your hands way of high – celebrate,
let's celebrate the fourth of July
Summertime, summertime – it's the month of July (2X)

28 – Hanukkah, Hanukkah (soundtrack) – 13

29 – Kwanzaa (soundtrack) – 14

30 – Rise Up – M.L.K. Day (soundtrack) – 15

31 – It's Your Birthday (soundtrack) – 16

32 – Little Hands (soundtrack) – 17

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