

## ***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 CD-32, 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 CD-31, 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 too - 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, schoolttime 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, schoolttime is here - it's August, schoolttime is here

### **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, schoolttime 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, schoolttime is here. It's September, schoolttime 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

We had such fun with all our friends, I hope that we can go again.

## **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 Americans 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 year, a 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 (2 X)

### **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, on e, one, one  
Hanukkah, Hanukkah - the second night, how many candles do we light  
Two, two, tw o, two, two  
Hanukkah, Hanukkah - the third night, how many candles do we light  
Three, three, thr ee, three, three  
Hanukkah, Hanukkah - the fourth night, how many candles do we light  
Four, four, fo ur, four, four  
Hanukkah, Hanukkah - the fifth night, how many candles do we light  
Five, five, fiv e, five, five  
Hanukkah, Hanukkah - the sixth night, how many candles do we light  
Six, six, si x, six, six  
Hanukkah, Hanukkah - the seventh night, how many candles do we light  
Seven, seven, sev en, seven, seven  
Hanukkah, Hanukkah - the eighth night, how many candles do we light  
Eight, eight, eig ht, 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 dan ce, 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 Chris tmas 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  
t ree  
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.*

Jam bo

Chorus 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 – C a s s . s i d e 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 – C a s s . s i d e B**

*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 celeb rate 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 – C a s s . s i d e B**

*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 (2 X)  
100 days, 100 days, 100 days of school today  
So clap and sway, and say, hurray!  
Say cool, say awesome, say alright  
100 days of school today

### **19 - The Year's – Shortest Month (Feb.) - 4 – C a s s . s i d e B**

*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, but 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 – C a s s . s i d e B**

*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, be my, be my, be, be my valentine  
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 – C a s s . s i d e B**

*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 (2 X)

### **22 - Bunny Boogie - 7 – C a s s . s i d e B**

*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, B unny 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 – C a s s . s i d e B**

*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 flow, 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 – C a s s . s i d e B**

*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 – C a s s . s i d e B**

*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 (2 X)  
It's getting warmer day by day, all in the beautiful month of May

**26 - Summer Days (Jun.) - 11 – C a s s . s i d e B**

*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 – C a s s . s i d e B**

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

**28 - Hanukkah, Hanukkah (soundtrack) - 13 – C a s s . s i d e B**

**29 - Kwanzaa (soundtrack) - 14 – C a s s . s i d e B**

**30 - R i s e U p – M.L.K. Day (soundtrack) - 15 – C a s s . s i d e B**

**31 - It's Your Birthday (soundtrack) - 16 – C a s s . s i d e B**

**32 - Little Hands (soundtrack) - 17 – C a s s . s i d e B**

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