

Circle Time Toddlers

Call to Circle

It's time to make a circle, a circle, a circle. It's time to make a circle so we can have fun.

Standard Format

- Greeting Song(s)
- Three lap songs (a rotating selection from a list of 6 or 7 favorites)
- Three finger rhymes (ditto)
- Theme Activities
 - For first theme, just 1 special thing each week. Later in the year, two things. Later, 3 – 5.
 - Could include special songs, or a book (books only after January 1)
 - Should include something hands-on (Examples: give each child a puzzle piece to put into the puzzle. Or give each child a toy to hold up at the right time in the song. Or give each child a toy, and when you get to the next verse, like in Old McDonald, ask them what toy they have and what sound it makes, then sing a verse, etc.)
- Shakers / Scarves / Rhythm Sticks / Bubbles
 - We do shakers every week. For first month, do only shakers with the one standard shaker song. As the months go on, we can add one other “prop” activity each week – either more shaker songs, or some other prop song.
- Active Songs / Parachute / CD
 - 1 - 3 per week. Do parachute on a week when you don't have many other props.
- Closing Song – pick one song from the active songs list. This will be the standard closing song for the whole year. This signals the toddlers that circle is over.

Greeting Songs

We always roll the ball. We can do one other welcome song in the early months to help learn names.

Roll the Ball: I roll the ball to _____. S/he rolls it back to me!

Clap for You: Hello _____. How are you? Stand up tall, we'll clap for you!

Dum diddee Drum: Dum diddee dum will you bang my drum? Banging my drum is lots of fun. Hello ____ (Drum syllables, then everyone echoes you...) Hello _____ Hello _____ Hello _____. (And so on.) We're glad you came today!

More We Get Together: The more we get together, together, together, the more we get together, the happier we'll be. With _____ and _____ and _____ and _____. The more we get together the happier we'll be. (Then start again, and continue till we've done all. This song needs a multiple of four names, so if you run through all the kids' names, then you end up saying something like “With Ben and Izzi and mommies and daddies.” Or “With Martin and mommies and nannies and teachers.”)

Lap Songs

Choose 6 or 7 favorites to rotate through the year.

Trot to Boston. (start by doing just the first verse, add others later on)

Trot Trot to Boston, Trot Trot to Dover, Watch out Baby or You Might Fall Over.

Trot Trot to Boston, Trot Trot to Lynn, Trot to the Charles River, but don't Fall In.

Trot Trot to Boston, Trot Trot to Maine, Oh my little one, please come home again.

Pony Ride

Riding on a pony downtown, (bounce child up and down your legs)

Better watch out or you might fall DOWN! (child falls between your legs)

Elevator

Let's go riding on an elevator, Let's go riding on an elevator,

1st floor, 2nd floor, 3rd floor, 4th floor, 5th floor, (raise legs a little bit each time)

Down, down, down, down, down! (Child slides down legs)

Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty up, Humpty Dumpty down.

Humpty Dumpty left, Humpty Dumpty right.

Humpty Dumpty all around. Humpty Dumpty Upside Down.

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall;

Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. (HD falls over moaning all the way)

Poor Humpty Dumpty!

Row your Boat (hold child facing you, holding hands, and row back and forth)

Row row row your boat, gently down the stream. Merrily merrily merrily merrily, life is but a dream.

Popcorn (Also can be used as a parachute song)

Popcorn, popcorn in a pan, Shake'em up, shake'em up, Bam, bam, bam

Zoom down the freeway

Zoom down the freeway, Zoom down the freeway, Zoom down the freeway, Fast!

Up goes the drawbridge, Up goes the drawbridge, The boat is going past.

Down goes the drawbridge, Down goes the drawbridge. The boat has passed at last.

Zoom down the freeway, Zoom down the freeway, Zoom down the freeway, EXIT!

The Noble Duke of York (or Grand Old Duke...)

(Baby sits on parent's knees, move knees up and down, left and right with soldiers)

The noble Duke of York, He had ten thousand men,

He marched them up to the top of the hill And he marched them down again

And when you're up, you're up, And when you're down, you're down

And when you're only halfway up, You're neither up nor down!

He marched them to the left, He marched them to the right

He even marched them upside down, Now wasn't that a sight!

Bumping Up and Down

(Tune of 10 Little Indians. Bounce babies on knees. When wheel's off, bounce them to the side. Hammer with their hands.)

Bumping up and down in my little red wagon (3x) Won't you be my darlin'?

One wheel's off and the axle's broken ...

(Mommy)'s gonna fix it with a hammer ...

Uncle John

Father and Mother and Uncle John, Went to market one by one,

Mother fell off! Father fell off! But Uncle John went on and on and on!

Finger Rhymes

Round & Round the Garden

(Walk your fingers in circle around baby's belly button. Step to chin or armpit, tickle)

Round and round the garden Walks the teddy bear

With a one step and a two step and a tickle you under there!

Where is Thumbkin?

(Tune of Frere Jacques. The fingers on your hands "talk" to each other, one at a time. On "run and hide" put hands behind your back)

Where is Thumbkin, where is Thumbkin? Here I am! Here I am!

How are you today, sir? Very well I thank you.

Run away. Run away.

(Where is pointer? Where is tall man? Where is ring man? Where is pinky?)

This Little Piggy (could do for farm theme)

This little piggy went to market, This little piggy stayed at home,

This little piggy ate roast beef, This little piggy had none.

And this little piggy went... "Wee wee wee wee wee" All the way home...

Snail and Mouse

Slowly, slowly, very slowly, Creeps the little snail. Slowly, slowly, very slowly, Up the wooden rail.

Quickly, quickly, very quickly, Runs the little mouse. Quickly, quickly, very quickly, All around the house.

Itsy Bitsy Spider (start in October when the spider theme comes out)

The itsy bitsy spider went up the water spout.

Down came the rain and washed the spider out.

Out came the sun and dried up all the rain,

and the itsy bitsy spider went up the spout again.

Open Shut Them

Open shut them, open shut them, Give a little clap.

Open shut them, open shut them Lay them in your lap.

Creep them crawl them, creep them crawl them Right up to your chin

Open up your little mouth, But do not let them in! (Quickly cover mouth with hands.)

Up the mountain. (good in the winter)

Up the mountain (run your fingers up one of their arms)

Down the other side (then run fingers down their other arm)

Brr it's cold out... (hug them tight)

Let's climb inside! (tickle their neck as you reach your fingers under their collar)

The Beehive (good in the spring)

(Use your fist as the beehive, and then put up fingers when you're counting bees. Tickle on the buzz.)

Here is a beehive. But, where are the bees?

Hidden away, where nobody sees.

Watch and you'll see them come out of the hive...

1,2,3,4,5 -- buzzzzzz!

Criss Cross

Criss, cross (*draw and X on baby's back*)

Applesauce (*pat baby's shoulders in rhythm to the beat.*)

Spiders crawling up your back (*walk fingers in a tickly fashion up your baby's back*)

Tight squeeze (*give a hug*)

Cool breeze. (*blow gently on baby's neck*)

And now you've got the shivers! (*tickle baby all over*)

Props: Shakers, Scarves, Rhythm Sticks, and more

Every week we sing: Shake and Stop

Oh you shake and you shake and you shake and you stop. (repeat 3x) Shake 'em up high, shake 'em down low, shake them on your tummy, and way down to your toes.

Shake your shaker (tune: London Bridge)

Shake your shaker near and far, near and far, near and far

Shake your shaker near and far, shake your shaker.

(Shake your shaker high and low... fast and slow)

Tootsie Roll

Shake em high, tootsie tootsie, tootsie roll

Shake em low tootsie tootsie, tootsie roll

All around tootsie tootsie, tootsie roll

On the ground tootsie tootsie, tootsie roll

to the side tootsie tootsie, tootsie roll

other side tootsie tootsie, tootsie roll

Real small tootsie tootsie, tootsie roll (said softly)

That's all tootsie tootsie, tootsie roll (said softly and slowly)

Jingle Bells – in December and January only

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way. Oh what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh. Hey. Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way. Oh what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh.

Accompanying a CD. Put on a CD or stream any song with a fun rhythm and have kids shake along.

Peekaboo Scarves (tune: Frere Jacques / Where is Thumbkin)

Are you hiding, are you hiding, yes I am, yes I am.

It's time for you to come out. (2x) Peek a boo! Peek a boo!

Jack in the Box (hide the scarf in your hand, then let it pop out)

Jack in the Box, so quiet and still, won't you come out? Yes I will!

Wave our Scarves Together (Tune Jolly good fellow)

We wave our scarves together, we wave our scarves together,

We wave our scarves together, because it's fun to do.

(shake, throw, hide)

10 Little Bubbles (while blowing bubbles)

1 little, 2 little, 3 little bubbles. 4 little, 5 little, 6 little bubbles.

7 little, 8 little, 9 little bubbles. 10 little bubbles go pop, pop, pop!

Pop pop pop pop those bubbles. (x3) Popping all the day.

Bubbles in the Air

There are bubbles in the air, in the air. (2x)

There are bubbles in the air, there are bubbles everywhere.

There are bubbles in the air, in the air.

(There are bubbles way up high... in the sky. ...way down low... on your toes.)

Tap our sticks today (Tune London Bridge. Start tapping rhythm sticks together)

Let's all tap our sticks today, sticks today, sticks today.

Let's all tap our sticks today, tap them on your knees.

(keep tapping knees, till last line is tap them on your shoulders, then on the floor, etc.)

Tap your sticks in the air (tune If You're happy and you know it)

Tap your sticks in the air, in the air. Tap your sticks in the air, in the air.

Tap your sticks in the air, do it with some flair. Tap your sticks in the air, in the air.

(Tap your sticks on the floor... then do it some more.)

This is the way

this is the way we tap our sticks, tap our sticks, tap our sticks.

This is the way we tap our sticks so early in the morning.

(This the way we hammer... the way we drum with... rub our sticks, etc.)

When you're done with props, sing one of these songs every time

Shakers go in the basket. Shakers go in the basket. In the basket. In the basket.

Shakers go in the basket. Shakers go in the basket. Bye bye shakers. Bye Bye shakers. OR

It's time to put the shakers away, shakers away, shakers away. It's time to put the shakers away, and save them for another day.

Active Songs (include parachute songs)

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes (2X first slow, then fast)

Head, shoulders, knees and toes -- knees and toes

Head, shoulders, knees and toes -- knees and toes

Eyes and ears and mouth and nose

Head, shoulders, knees and toes -- knees and toes.

Hokey Pokey

(Parents stand, holding babies in a circle. Do motions with babies' bodies.)

You put your arm in, You put your arm out, You put your arm in And you shake it all about

You do the hokey pokey As you turn yourself around That's what it's all about!

(Leg, head, whole self)

Ring Around the Rosie

Ring around the rosie, A pocket full of posies, Ashes, ashes, We all fall down!

The cows are in the meadow, Eating buttercups. Thunder! Lightning! We all jump up!

Walk Bear

Take a little walk Bear, walk bear, walk bear, take a little walk bear, walk bear, STOP.

(wiggle, jump, dance, run, hug)

Walking (tune [here](#))

Walking, Walking, (x2)

Wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, (x2)

Running, running, running, (x2)

Now we stop! (x2)

Round the Circle (can do just as a movement song, or with the parachute)

Go round and round the circle, go round and round the circle, go round and round the circle, as we have done before.

(In and out the circle, up and down)

Mulberry Bush with Parachute – standing and waving it, or with kids sitting on it

All around the mulberry bush (walk around a circle), the monkey chased the weasel (rattle parachute).

The monkey thought it was all in fun (lower the parachute to the ground). Pop goes the weasel (pop it)

Other parachute options: Put on a recording (CD or streaming) of any music you like, and wave the parachute up and down to it. Sing and move the parachute to:

- Lap Songs: Grand Old Duke of York, Elevator, and Popcorn all work well
- Ring Around the Rosie (can have kids sit
- London Bridges

Closing Song for Circle Time

From the list of action songs above, choose one standard to use as our closing song for the whole year – it's the kid's cue that circle time is over.

Closing Circle at End of Class

Twinkle Twinkle

Twinkle, twinkle, little star, How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high, Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star, How I wonder what you are.

Teddy Bear Option 1

Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn around,
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the ground.
Teddy bear, teddy bear, show your shoe,
Teddy bear, teddy bear, I love you.
Teddy bear, teddy bear, reach up high,
Teddy bear, teddy bear, wave bye-bye.

Teddy Bear Option 2

Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn around,
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the ground,
Teddy bear, teddy bear, reach up high,
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the sky,
Teddy bear, teddy bear, bend down low,
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch your toes,
Teddy bear, teddy bear, go to bed,
Teddy bear, teddy bear, rest your head,
Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn off the lights,
Teddy bear, teddy bear, say "good night".

Optional... it can be nice to do a special goodbye ritual to each child. Some teachers use a rubber stamp to give every child a stamp on their hand. Some have a puppet that goes around and gives everyone a kiss goodbye.

Theme Activities

An idea that could be used for any theme... take an item representing the theme. Put it in a box. Sing this song: "What's in the blue box, the blue box, the blue box? What's in the blue box? I don't know. Let's find out." Take it out and talk about the item and the theme.

Babies and Families Theme

Two Little Eyes (Tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

Two little eyes to look around, Two little ears to hear each sound.

One little nose to smell what's sweet, One little mouth that likes to eat.

Eyes, ears, nose and mouth. Eyes, ears, nose and mouth.

Where Oh Where? (Tune of 10 Little Indians. On "round and round" circle baby's belly button)

Where oh where are (baby's) fingers? Where oh where are _____ toes?

Where is _____ belly button? Round and round it goes!

Where oh where are _____ ears? Where oh where is _____ nose?

Where is _____ belly button? Round and round it goes!

Pets

B-I-N-G-O... There was a farmer had a dog...

Where O Where (hide a dog puppet around the room and find him after every repetition of the song)

Where, oh where has my little dog gone? Oh, where oh where can he be?

Oh his tail is short and his ears are long, Oh, where oh where can he be?

Kitty rhyme (Make a fist of left hand for kitty, and pet the kitty.)

Soft kitty, warm kitty, Little ball of fur. Lazy kitty, pretty kitty, purr, purr, purr

Fall / Pumpkins / Spiders

Apple Tree (tune at www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKmFHRrkFuQ)

Way up high in the apple tree. Five little apples smiled down at me.

I shook that tree just as hard as I could. Down came the apples, and mmm they were good.

Black Birds

Two little black birds sitting on a hill, One named Jack (Quiet) and the other named Jill (Loud)

Fly away Jack (Quiet), fly away Jill (Loud). Come back Jack (Quiet), come back Jill (Loud)

Farm

Old McDonald. (give children toy animals... for each verse, ask a child: "what animal do you have? What sound does it make" then sing that verse)

Old McDonald had a farm. E I E I O And on that farm there was a cow. E I E I O

With a moo moo here and a moo moo there. Here a moo, there a moo, everywhere a moo moo.

Old McDonald had a farm. E I E I O

I'm a Little Turkey (I'm a Little Teapot tune – sing near Thanksgiving)

I'm a little turkey, My name is Ted, Here are my feathers And here is my head.

Gobble, gobble, gobble Is what I say, Quick, better run, It's Thanksgiving day

Moon / Stars / Winter / Ice

Snowing (Tune: Are You Sleeping?)

It is snowing, it is snowing, All around, all around.

See the pretty snowflakes, See the pretty snowflakes,

Touch the ground. Touch the ground.

Snowman

Once there was a snowman, a snowman, a snowman,

Oh, once there was a snowman, we built him so tall (grow up tall)

In the sunshine he melted, he melted, he melted,

In the sunshine he melted, small, small, small, small, small. (shrink down to floor)

Books: Good Night Moon, or a Twinkle Twinkle book

Transportation

Wheels on the Bus – you can find the words anywhere on line 😊

The Wheels on the Train

The wheels on the train go round and round, round and round, round and round all through the town

The engine on the train goes chug, chug, chug/chug, chug, chug/chug, chug, chug all through the town

The conductor on the train says, “All aboard!”/“All aboard!”“All aboard!” all through the town

The smoke from the train goes puff, puff, puff/puff, puff, puff/puff, puff, puff all through the town

The whistle on the train goes toot, toot, toot/ toot, toot, toot/ toot, toot, toot all through the town

Drive the Fire Truck. [http://wiki.kcls.org/index.php/Hurry, Hurry Drive the Fire Truck](http://wiki.kcls.org/index.php/Hurry,_Hurry_Drive_the_Fire_Truck)

Hurry, hurry! Drive the fire truck! Hurry, hurry! Drive the fire truck!

Hurry, hurry! Drive the fire truck! Ding, ding, ding, ding, ding!

I’m a Little Airplane (tune of I’m a little teapot)

I’m a little airplane, I can fly, Here is my throttle, Give me a try.

When I get all revved up, I can fly, Off the runway, To the sky!

Down by the Station

Down by the station, Early in the morning

See the little puffer bellies, All in a row

See the station master, Turn the little handle

Puff, puff, toot, toot, off we go

Books: Freight Train by Crews. Trucks or Planes or Boats by Barton.

Zoo / Jungle

The Animals at the Zoo (tune Wheels on the Bus. Can give children toy animals to hold up)

The lions at the zoo go roar, roar, roar -- roar, roar, roar -- roar, roar, roar

The lions at the zoo go roar, roar, roar, All day long

(Snakes hiss, hyenas ha, monkey oo)

Did You Ever See a Lion (can give children toy animals to hold up)

Did you ever see a lion, a lion, a lion, Did you ever see a lion -- While at the zoo?

(pause, then say “what does a lion say? ROAR)

Did you ever see a zebra, a zebra, a zebra. Did you ever see a zebra -- While at the zoo? (NEIGH)

Did you ever see an elephant... TRUMPET.... Gorilla.... OOH OOH

Five Little Monkeys

(Your fingers are monkeys. Jump hand up and down, fall to side and hit head, dialing phone, doctor wagging finger side to side)

Five little monkeys, jumpin’ on the bed. One fell off and bumped his head.

Mama called the doctor. And the doctor said No more monkeys jumpin’ on the bed!

(Repeat four, three, two, one)

Books: Dear Zoo by Campbell. Good Night Gorilla by Rathmann. Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See or Polar Bear, Polar Bear by Carle.

Spring / Ducks

Shakers Rain (use shakers)

One day I was sitting in my house. It was very quiet. (hold shakers still)

All of a sudden, I heard some light raindrops on my roof. They sounded like this. (shake very slowly)

After a while the rain got a little heavier, (shake a bit louder and faster)

And then a little heavier, and then it turned into a rainstorm! (shake very fast and hard)

And then it stopped (stop shaking).

Little Raindrops Falling Down (London Bridges, also with shakers)

Little raindrops falling down, Falling down, falling down.(gently shake shakers)

Little raindrops falling down, My Fair Lady.

2nd verse – Bigger raindrops (tap shakers loudly on lap)

3rd verse – Giant raindrops (shake shakers on lap loudly and stomp feet at same time)

Rain is Falling (Frere Jacques)

Rain is falling, rain is falling, On my head, on my head.

I can feel the raindrops, I can feel the raindrops, On my head, on my head.

(on my knee... on my nose.... Let kids pick)

A Little Drop of Rain Hits the Ground (Tune: If you’re happy and you know it)

First a little drop of rain hits the ground. (Tap one finger on your palm.)

Then another drop of rain hits the ground. (Tap two fingers on your palm.)

Then another and another and another and another. (Tap more fingers till whole hand clapping quietly.)

And pretty soon you hear a different sound. Splash! (Clapping, ending with one big dramatic clap.)

Five Little Ducks Went Out One Day <http://tmas.kcls.org/five-little-ducks-went-out-one-day/>

Five Little Ducks went out one day, over the hills and far away.

Mother Duck said, “Quack, Quack, Quack, Quack,”

but only four little ducks came back.

Four little ducks went out one day... ..but only three little ducks came back.

(Repeat counting down to “but no little ducks came back.”)

Sad mother duck went out one day, over the hills and far away

Mother Duck said, “Quack, Quack, Quack, Quack,” and five little ducks came running back.

Six Little Ducks that I Once Knew <http://tmas.kcls.org/six-little-ducks/>

Six little ducks that I once knew, Fat ones, skinny ones, fair ones too!

But the one little duck with the feather on her back, She led the others with a quack quack quack.

Quack quack quack. Quack quack quack. She led the others with a quack quack quack.

Down to the river they would go, A wobble wobble, wobble wobble, to and fro.

But the one little duck with the feather on her back, She led the others with a quack quack quack.

A quack quack quack. A quack quack quack. She led the others with a quack quack quack.

Books: Five Little Ducks by Raffi. Ten Rubber Duckies by Winburn. One Duck Stuck by Root. Have you Seen My Duckling? by Tafuri. A mother searches for her baby. Very Hungry Caterpillar by Carle

Beach

Motorboat

Motorboat, Motorboat go so slow. Motorboat, Motorboat go so fast.

Motorboat, Motorboat step on the gas. Motorboat, Motorboat run out of gas.

All the Fish (kids can have toys to match)

All the fish are swimming in the water, Swimming in the water, Swimming in the water

All the fish are swimming in the water (swimming motions with arms)

Bubble, bubble, bubble, bubble...SPLASH! (make hands larger and larger and big clap to SPLASH)

All the ducks are paddling in the water... frogs jumping... kids splashing

Little Fish

Little fish, Little fish, Swimming in the water.

Little fish, little fish, Gulp, Gulp, Gulp.

Oh no, he's been eaten by a tuna fish!

(Tuna fish... octopus.... Great white shark.. sea monster - EEEEEK

Books: Fish Swish, Splash, Dash by MacDonald. Ten Little Fish by Wood. Busy Boats by Mitton.

Special – whenever the parent ed topic is Emotional Development, we'll do:

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, let everybody know it.

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

(If you're mad, stomp your feet... sad... you can cry... scared... say eek