



## Connecting Games to Play with Infants & Toddlers

"The most important thing children need to thrive is to live in an environment of **relationships** that begins in their family but also extends out to include adults that are not family members in their child care centers and other programs."

([http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/multimedia/videos/theory\\_of\\_change](http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/multimedia/videos/theory_of_change))

To build relationships... Talk with children (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqljnK4HVaw> )

Play with children (Get down on the floor and follow the child's lead)

Use Connecting Activities

Primary Source of Connecting Games: <https://www.piercecountylibrary.org/files/library/wiggleticklesall.pdf>

### Bounces

#### **I Bounce You Here**

I bounce you here, I bounce you there, (bounce child on knees)  
I bounce you, bounce you, everywhere.  
I tickle you here, I tickle you there, (gently tickle child)  
I tickle you, tickle you, everywhere.  
I hug you here, I hug you there, (hug child)  
I hug you, hug you, everywhere!

#### **This is the Way the Baby Rides**

This is the way the baby rides, (bounce child on knees,  
The baby rides, the baby rides. with each new verse  
This is the way the baby rides, bounce child faster)  
So early in the morning.  
This is the way the farmer rides...  
This is the way the jockey rides...

#### **Bumpy Road**

Smooth Road, Smooth Road. (move child in circular motion on your lap)  
Bumpy Road, Bumpy Road. (bounce your child on your lap)  
Rough Road, Rough Road. (increase the height and speed of the bounce)  
Hole. (gently drop child between your legs)

### Fingerplays & Lovies

#### **A Wonderful Woman**

A wonderful woman lived in a shoe,  
She had so many children she knew exactly what to do.  
She held them. She rocked them, and tucked them in bed.  
"I love you, I love you" is what she said.

(Bailey, 2000, p. 59)

#### **Round and Round the Garden**

Round and round the garden  
Goes the teddy bear  
One step, two step  
Tickle under there.

(Bailey, 2000, p. 111)

#### **Here's the Bunny**

Here's the bunny with the ears so funny.  
Here's the hole in the ground.  
When a noise she hears,  
She picks up her ears,  
And jumps in the hole in the ground!

(Bailey, 2000, p. 103)

### Giddy Up Horsey

Giddy-up, giddy-up, giddy-up horsey. (bounce child on knees)  
Giddy-up, giddy-up, go, go, go.  
Giddy-up, giddy-up, giddy-up horsey.  
Giddy-up, giddy-up, Whoa! (let child slip through knees)

### Did You Ever See a Baby

Did you ever see a baby, (have your child sitting on your lap)  
A baby, a baby?  
Did you ever see a baby,  
Go this way and that? (rock from side to side)  
Go this way and that way, (forward and back)  
And that way and this way. (side to side)  
Did you ever see a baby,  
Go this way and that? (forward and back)

### Shoe the Little Horse

Shoe the little horse, (pat child's left foot)  
Shoe the little mare, (pat child's right foot)  
But let the little colt, (bicycle child's feet around and around)  
Run free everywhere.

### Let's Go Riding in an Elevator

Let's go riding in an elevator. (hold child in front of you on lap)  
Let's go riding in an elevator.  
First floor, (at "first floor" start to lift child up  
Second floor, rising up a little at each floor)  
Third floor,  
Fourth floor,  
Fifth floor, (by "fifth floor" child should be high,  
Dooooowwwwnn! bring child quickly back to lap on "down")

### Fingerplays & Lovies

#### Two Little Eyes

Two little eyes to look around. (point to child's features as mentioned)  
Two little ears to hear each sound.  
One little nose to smell what's sweet.  
One little mouth that likes to eat.

### Welcome Back Ritual

You've been gone and you've been missed.  
Where would you like your butterfly kiss?  
(Adapted from Becky Bailey)

### Playing with Puppets

Make finger puppets by cutting the fingers off old gloves.  
Glue or draw on ears, eyes and a mouth.  
Make them sing, dance, tickle and kiss.  
(<https://www.babycentre.co.uk/a554804/games-to-play-with-your-baby-under-12-months#ixzz4fqzP0Sic>)

### Tommy Thumb

Tommy Thumb is up and  
Tommy Thumb is down,  
Tommy Thumb is dancing  
all around the town.  
Dance him on your \_\_\_\_,  
dance him on your head,  
Dance him on your \_\_\_\_,  
and tuck him into bed.  
(Source unknown)

### Hickory, Dickory, Dock

Hickory, Dickory, Dock  
(Touch baby's toes, knees and hips)  
The mouse ran up the dock.  
(Tickle up baby's body)  
The clock struck one,  
(Touch baby's nose)  
The mouse ran down,  
(Tickle down baby's body)  
Hickory, Dickory, Dock.  
(Touch baby's toes, knees and hips)

### All I Want are Hugs

All I want are hugs from you, (hold your little one in your arms and  
Hugs to last the whole day through. give a gentle hug every time you say  
Hugs just make me feel so good, the word "hug")  
So hug me, hug me, hug me.  
Give me lots of hugs today,  
Hugs to chase the blues away.  
Hugs to last the whole day through,  
Just hug me, hug me, hug me!

### Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
What a wonderful child you are!  
With a bright eyes and nice round cheeks,  
A talented person from head to feet!  
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
What a wonderful child you are!  
(www.consciousdiscipline.com)

### Little Flea

Creeping, creeping, little flea, (creep fingers up child's body and down again)  
Up my leg and past my knee.  
To my tummy, on he goes,  
Past my chin and to my nose.  
Now he's creeping down my chin,  
To my tummy once again.  
Down my leg and past my knee,  
To my toe that little flea.  
GOTCHA! (gently tickle baby's tummy on "GOTCHA"  
and switch to other foot)

### Elephant Song

One elephant went out to play, (hold up one finger)  
Over the hills and far away. (wave finger like it is going over the hills)  
She had such enormous fun, (on "enormous" circle arms out and around)  
That she called for another elephant to come. (cup hands over mouth)  
"Oh Elephant!"... (call out and then pound the floor  
for the running elephant sound)  
(Repeat with as many elephants (fingers) as you want)

### Fire Truck

Hurry, hurry, drive the fire truck. (put hands up like they are  
Hurry, hurry, drive the fire truck. on the steering wheel)  
Hurry, hurry, drive the fire truck.  
Ding, ding, ding, ding, ding! (pretend to ring bell)  
Repeat with:  
turn the corner. (hands on steering wheel but lean into the corner)  
Climb the ladder. (climb the ladder)  
Spray the water. (spray the water)

**Movement Games**

**Jack in the Box**

Jack in the box, (crouch down)  
Jack in the box,  
Oh so still -  
Won't you come out?  
YES I WILL! (shout and jump up)

**Tap and Clap**

Two little feet go tap, tap, tap. (follow actions of verse as spoken)  
Two little hands go clap, clap, clap.  
A quick little leap up from the chair,  
Two little arms reach high in the air.  
Two little feet go jump, jump, jump.  
Two little hands go thump, thump, thump.  
One little baby turns round and round.  
One little child sits quietly down.

**Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear**

Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn around. (turn around)  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the ground. (touch ground)  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, tie your shoe. (pretend to tie shoe)  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, I love you! (give yourself a hug)  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn out the light. (pretend to turn out light)  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, say "Good night!" (blow kiss)

**Roll It to Me**

Play catch with toddlers:  
Sit on the ground facing each other with your legs apart  
and toes touching.  
Roll the ball back and forth to each other.

[https://www.babycenter.com/0\\_games-to-play-with-your-toddler\\_1485454.bc](https://www.babycenter.com/0_games-to-play-with-your-toddler_1485454.bc)

**Catch Me if You Can!**

Toddlers love to be chased.  
The object: catch the child with a big bear  
hug and tickles  
Can pretend to be different types of animals

[https://www.babycenter.com/0\\_games-to-play-with-your-toddler\\_1485454.bc](https://www.babycenter.com/0_games-to-play-with-your-toddler_1485454.bc)

**For more connecting activities, see** [www.consciousdiscipline.com](http://www.consciousdiscipline.com):

Bailey, B.A. 2000. *I love you rituals*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc.

Bailey, B.A. & Harmon, M. *Songs for I Love You Rituals: Vol.1 & 2*