

Nonsense Song and Circle Dance

(Target audience: Preschool)

Integrate this as part of a program for young children. This is based on the popular song “Rig-a-Jig-Jig,” and you will need puppets or flannel board puppets to help children identify the works and create interest. Encourage everyone to sing, clap, and do the actions. You can use an instrument to keep the beat.

Materials:

- Flannel board
- Puppets (or flannel board puppets): duck, skunk, hot dog, moustache, all of which you hide in a basket or box.

“Rig-a-Jig-Jig” goes like this:

As I was walking down the street, down the street, down the street,
A pretty duck I happened to meet, heigh-ho, heigh.

Refrain: Rig-a-jig-jig and away we go, away we go, away we go.
 Rig-a-jig-jig and away we go, heigh-ho, heigh

1. Begin by showing the duck puppet.
2. Now, pull out a skunk. Make a story about how you saw one last night and how it smelled. Repeat the song and substitute skunk for duck and have everyone sing the song again while pinching their noses.
3. Repeat again with silly substitutions with actions, a hot dog (pretend you are eating one), moustache (put fingers over the lips). Create whatever silly combination of things that you can think of.
4. Circle dance:
Once the song has been introduced, have the audience take part in a circle. Have two people go into the middle and make the motions of the animal. Everyone else forms a circle around them while singing the song and clapping to the beat. At the refrain, have everyone hold hands and walk in a large circle as they sing the song.
5. Repeat until they have sung and danced to all the creatures or objects.