



## ReadingPals is a Statewide Early Literacy Initiative

### FINGERPLAYS AND SONGS

Fingerplays and songs can be used to reinforce a concept, to refocus attention or just for fun. When you finish and the children are quiet, you may want to take advantage of the opportunity to remind them of the rules or simply move on with the story or activity

**Fingerplays:** Children will join in as you say the words and will imitate your hand gestures.

#### **Open, Shut Them**

(Open and shut fingers while saying :)  
Open shut them,  
Open shut them,  
Give a quiet clap.  
Open shut them,  
Open shut them,  
Put them in your lap.

#### **Two Red Apples**

Way up high, in a tree. (Raise hands over head)  
  
Two red apples smiled at me. (Smile)  
  
So I shook the tree har-r-d as I could (Shake tree)  
Down came the apples. (Catch the apples and take a bite)  
Ummm, they were good!!! (Rub tummy)

#### **I Wiggle**

I wiggle my fingers  
I wiggle my toes  
I wiggle my shoulders  
I wiggle my nose.  
Now no more wiggles are left in me.  
So I will be still, as still can be.

#### **Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes** (standing or sitting touch the body parts as they are spoken)

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  
(Repeat fast or slow; end very slowly to calm group)

### Songs

#### **The Author** (Tune: *The Farmer in the Dell*)

The author writes the words  
The author writes the words  
The illustrator draws the pictures  
But the author writes the words

#### **We are Friends** (Tune: *Oh My Darling Clementine*)

We are friends, we are friends  
In this classroom we are friends.  
We listen and we share  
We show respect and that we care.

#### **My Friend** (Tune: *You Are My Sunshine*)

You are my good friend  
My very good friend  
You make me happy  
Every day  
We share our great books  
We share our feelings

Please don't take  
My good friend away.

**Words** (Poem by Nat West)

I can see books.  
I can hear birds.  
I can read books.  
I learn new words.!

**Goodbye Song** (Tune:

Goodbye (child's name)  
Goodbye (child's name)  
Goodbye (child's name)  
See you again next week!  
(Repeat with each child's name and Reading Pal's name. May want to stand in small circle and hold hands.)

**Sports Close**

All children and ReadingPal stand in a circle with hands in the middle stacked on top of each other. Say "1, 2, 3," as you rock hands up and down. At "3" say, "READINGPALS!" throwing hands up and breaking the circle as if you were breaking the huddle for a football team. Add positive comment and remind children to return to their group using a vocabulary word from the story if appropriate (scamper, stomp, scramble, glide, etc.).