

Humpty Dumpty

Put in the bag

a plastic egg or a soft egg toy, building blocks to make a wall, toy horses.

Ask

Where was Humpty sitting? What could we use to mend him?

Try

Build a wall from blocks, sit the egg on top and count down before it falls.



Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Put in the bag

a torch, card stars covered in foil, a dark blanket for a night sky.

Ask

When can we see the stars? What shape is a star?

Try

Shine a torch on foil stars under a blanket and sing it softly.



Hey Diddle Diddle

Put in the bag

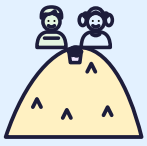
a toy cat, cow and dog, a plate and a spoon, a paper moon on a stick.

Ask

Can a cow really jump over the moon? Which part is silly?

Try

Hold up the paper moon and let toy animals take turns to jump over it.



Jack and Jill

Put in the bag

a small bucket, two small dolls or pegs, a cushion to be the hill.

Ask

What is a pail? How could Jack and Jill stay safe on the hill?

Try

Carry a small bucket of water up a slope outside without spilling it.



The Itsy Bitsy Spider

Put in the bag

a toy spider on a string, a cardboard tube for the spout, a watering can.

Ask

Why did the spider fall down? What did the sun do?

Try

Pour water down a tube in the water tray and watch what happens to a toy spider.



Baa, Baa, Black Sheep

Put in the bag

a ball of wool or cotton wool, three small bags, a toy sheep.

Ask

How many bags of wool? What can we make from wool?

Try

Share three bags between three toys: one for each. Then try with more bags.



Hickory Dickory Dock

Put in the bag

a toy mouse, a cardboard clock with hands, a bell or a triangle.

Ask

How many times did the clock strike? What else could run up the clock?

Try

Ring the bell a number of times and let the children count and move the clock hand.



Little Miss Muffet

Put in the bag

a cushion for the tuffet, a bowl and spoon, a toy spider.

Ask

What is a tuffet? Would you be frightened of a spider?

Try

Taste a little cottage cheese, which is close to curds and whey, if your setting allows food play.



Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Put in the bag

a toy boat, a blue cloth for the stream, two wooden spoons for oars.

Ask

How does a boat move? Can we row fast, then slowly?

Try

Sit in pairs on the blue cloth and row slowly, then fast, then slowly again.



Hot Cross Buns

Put in the bag

play dough buns, a tray and a basket, toy coins.

Ask

What shape is on top of the bun? How many buns can we buy?

Try

Roll play dough buns, press a cross on top and set up a bun stall.

One, Two, Buckle My Shoe

Put in the bag

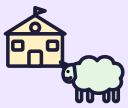
a shoe with a buckle, ten sticks or lolly sticks, a toy hen.

Ask

What number comes after four? How many sticks can you lay straight?

Try

Count out real sticks as you sing and lay them in a straight line.



Mary Had a Little Lamb

Put in the bag

a toy lamb, cotton wool, a toy school bag.

Ask

What is a fleece? Why was the lamb not allowed at school?

Try

Play follow the leader: one child is Mary and everyone else is the lamb.