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Tail Slap is a Colony Scouter resource.



The focus of these pages is Beavers, the junior section of Scouts Canada.

Finger Plays

Finger plays have a long association with happy children. Emilie Poulsson's book, published before the Victorian era, contained many that are still popular today. Odd moments, when Beavers would otherwise be restless and mischievous, may be happily filled by these charming verses with finger actions. Whenever children have to wait, finger plays come into their own.

Hand and finger directions are given with most of the verses, but Scouters and Beavers may want to make up their own variations. Some verses can be used for activity with the whole body, and some can be done standing and some lying down. Part of the group could be a chorus, chanting the words as a rhythmic accompaniment for the motion of the other part of the group.

We include over 30 finger plays here, but at the end of the page there are links to three other resources.

Here is the church And here's the steeple, Open the doors And here's all the people.	(Fingers interlocked. Fingers inside.) (Index fingers rise to a point.) (Keep fingers interlocked, but turn palms up.) (Wriggle the fingers.)
Jack and Jill went up the hill, To fetch a pail of water, Jack fell down and broke his crown And Jill came tumbling after.	(Knees up, fingers running up knees — one hand falls, then the other.)
Knock at the door, Peep in, Lift up the latch, Walk in.	(Hit forehead with fist.) (Raise eyelid slightly.) (Touch tip of nose.) (Put finger in mouth.)
I'll touch my chin, My cheek, My chair. I'll touch my head. My heels, My hair. I'll touch my knees, My neck, My nose. Then I'll dip down And touch my toes.	
Here's the baby's tousled head, He nods and nods, Let's put him to bed.	(Closed fist.) (Bend fist back and forth.) (Bend other arm, tuck fist into bended elbow.)
Here's the nest for Robin Redbreast, Here's a hive for Busy Bee, Here's the hole for Jacky Rabbit, And a house for me.	(Cup hands to form nest.) (Fingertips together to form hive.) (Fingertips together to form hole.) (Interlock fingers, knuckles up, for house.)
We are little pussy cats, Walking round and round, We have cushions on our feet, And never make a sound.	(Walking on cushions of fingers.) OR (Crawling quietly like a cat.)
When I was one year old I was very small. Now I'm [age of Beaver] years old, I'm very, very tall.	(Beavers crouching on the floor.) (Beavers stretch up with hands above heads.)
A little ball, A bigger ball, A great big ball I see. Now let us count The balls we've made, One, two, three.	(Shape hands to make a ball.) (Point to one hand — to count.)
Choo, choo, choo, choo Too-too, too-too, toot-too Choo-choo, choo-choo, choo-choo Ding-ding, ding-ding, ding-ding.	(Rub palms together in circular motion to make a noise, slow at first, gradually increasing speed.) (Keep hands rubbing fast and call toot-too for whistle.)

	<i>(Rubbing hands gradually more and more slowly.) (Stop altogether and call ding-ding.)</i>
Five little birds without any home, Five little trees in a row, Come build your nests in our branches tall, We'll rock you to and fro.	<i>(Raise 5 fingers of right hand.) (Raise right hand high over head.) (Cup left hand for nest — right fingers in.) (Then rock both hands.)</i>
Five little kittens, All black and white, Sleeping very soundly All through the night. Meow, meow, meow, meow, meow, It's time to get up now.	<i>(Hand made into a fist.) (Each finger raised in turn to "Meow".)</i>
Five little soldiers standing in a row, Three stood straight And two stood so, Along came the General, And what do you think? Those two little soldiers Jumped — quick as a wink!	<i>(One hand — 3 fingers upright — two fingers bent.) (Other hand brought across.) (Two bent fingers upright.)</i>
Head and shoulders, knees and toes; Knees and toes, knees and toes, Head and shoulder, Knees and toes, Eyes, ears, nose and mouth (or chin).	
Hear the engine puff, choo-choo-choo; Hear the whistle blow, toot-toot-toot; Hear the big bell ring, ding-dong-ding; Hear the brakeman shout, "All aboard."	
Here are the beehives, Where are the bees? Hidden away where nobody sees. Soon they'll come creeping Out of the hives, One, two, three, four, five Buzz-zz.	<i>(Left hand cupped upward.) (Hide fingers of right hand under it.) (Fingers come out one by one.) (Hand circles around.)</i>
Here is a boy and here is his bed; Here is his pillow, and here is his head; He wraps himself in the covers tight, And this is the way he sleeps all night. Morning comes, he opens his eyes Back with a toss the covers fly; He runs around and plays all day.	<i>(Raise index finger of one hand. Hold palm of other hand out flat.) (Place thumb of same hand on palm. Place finger across palm resting on thumb.) (Wrap fingers around index finger.) (Raise index finger.) (Use index finger.)</i>
Here is my book, I can open it wide To show the pictures That are inside; Here is my ball So big and round That I toss in the air Or roll on the ground; Here's my umbrella That keeps me dry When the raindrops fall From the cloudy sky; And here is my kitten, Just hear her purr When I gently stroke Her soft warm fur.	<i>(Palms together; open wide.) (Fingers form ball.) (Hand above head.) (Left hand is the kitten and stroke with the right.)</i>
Here's a bunny With ears so funny And here's a hole in the ground. At the first sound he hears He pricks up his ears And pops right into the ground.	<i>(Raise two fingers.) (Make hole with fingers of other hand.) (Straighten fingers.) (Put into hole.)</i>
I have ten little fingers and they all belong to me. I can make them do things — would you like to see?	<i>(Descriptive motions with fingers.)</i>

I can shut them up tight, I can open them wide. I can put them together, I can make them all hide. I can make them jump high. I can make them jump low. I can fold them up quietly and hold them just so.	
Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack jumped over the candlestick.	<i>(Thumb of left hand is used as candle. Index and third finger of right hand are made to walk toward candle and jump over it.)</i>
Jack-in-the-box Sits so still. Won't you come out? Yes, I will.	<i>(Bury thumbs in the fist — then pop them out.) OR (Child crouching on floor and jumping up.)</i>
Little Arabella Miller Found a fuzzy caterpillar — First it crawled upon her mother Then upon her baby brother. Oh! said Arabella Miller, Take away that caterpillar!	<i>(Right hand walks up left arm.) (Right hand walks up left arm.)</i>
Little Robin Redbreast, Sat upon a rail, Niddle Noodle went his head, And wag went his tail; Niddle Noodle went his head, And wag went his tail.	<i>(Crouch like bird with 2 hands behind back like bird's tail.) (Nod head.) (Use hands to make tail wagging.)</i>
One finger, one thumb, keep moving; One finger, one thumb, keep moving; One finger, one thumb, keep moving. And we'll all be happy and gay. Two fingers, two thumbs, keep moving, etc. Two arms, two fingers, two thumbs, etc. Two legs, two arms, two fingers, two thumbs, etc. One head, two legs, two arms, two fingers, two thumbs, etc.	
Open, shut them; open, shut them, Give a little clap. Open, shut them; open, shut them, Put them in your lap. Creep up to your shoulders high Like birds they flutter in the sky, Like leaves they fall down to the ground, Slowly pick them up again, And roll them round and round.	<i>(Use hands to describe words.)</i>
Pease porridge hot; Pease porridge cold. Pease porridge in the pot, Nine days old. Some like it hot, Some like it cold; Some like it in the pot, Nine days old.	<i>(Slap knees, clap hands together, slap child's hands.) (Slap knees, clap hands together, slap child's right hand with your right hand, slap hands together.) (Slap child's left hand with your left hand, clap hands together, slap child's hands.) (Repeat.)</i>
Put your hands way up, Put your hands way out, Put your hands way down, And give a clap, clap, clap. Put your right foot out and in. Put you left foot out and in, Now put both your feet out, And kick, kick, kick	<i>(Sitting on floor, descriptive motions.)</i>
This is my right hand; Raise it up high, This is my left hand; I'll touch the sky. Right hand, left hand, Twirl them around,	<i>(Use hands and feet to describe words.)</i>

Left hand, right hand, Pound, pound, pound.	
Tommy Thumb's up Tommy Thumb's down; Tommy thumb's dancing, All around the town. Peter Pointer's up Peter Pointer's down; Peter Pointer's dancing, All around the town. Toby Tall's up, etc. Ruby Ring's up, etc. Little Finger's up, etc. All the Fingers up, etc.	(Each finger in turn.)
Two little birds sat upon a wall, One named Peter, one named Paul, Fly away Peter, fly away Paul, Come back Peter, come back Paul.	(One index placed on each knee.) (Raise each finger in turn.) (Waggle finger as you move arm behind in arc ... ditto — return.)
Five fat sausages, sizzling in a pan, All of a sudden one went bang! Repeat with four, then three, etc.	(Hold up 5 fingers.) (Dance fingers of one hand over open palm of the other.) (Clap hands together.)

Most of these these finger plays are from Scoutings's Program for Boys 5, 6, 7 years: BEAVERS

Other sources on the web:

- [Fingerplays and Songs](#)  **LINK** — leads to more links.

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