

JIM GILL: A JOYOUS WAY TO LEARN!

Many years ago I created a weekly program in music play for an agency providing programs and support for families with young children with special needs. Initially the agency professionals and families attending all looked at the program as an opportunity to gather for simple fun. After a number of weeks, however, everyone began pointing out the *abilities* that children were demonstrating through this play. It wasn't long before some of the therapists were singing my songs in their sessions. Parents also noted that singing the songs with their children at home was a joyous way to continue to work, more or less, therapeutically on their own.

In other words, it was play... but *play with purpose*.

I spent twenty years leading this "play" programming and continue to be influenced by what I observed...while playing. In addition to this practical work, my graduate studies in child development helped me to understand *why* play is the ideal context for young children to learn and for adults to guide that learning.

I hope that you will leave this session inspired to share a new repertoire of songs and games with children that you work with and care for. Even more, I hope that you will recognize the power of play to inspire, in children, agility in thought and a love of learning.

THE TEMPO MARCHES ON

Adapted from the traditional melody by Jim Gill.

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 2...

We are marching to the rhythm,
We are marching to the beat.
We are lifting up our knees
and we are stamping down our feet.
But the song keeps getting faster
with each verse that we complete.
The tempo marches on.

CHORUS:

Faster, faster, faster, faster.
Faster, faster, faster, faster.
Faster, faster, faster, faster.
The tempo marches on.

STICK TO THE GLUE

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 3...

Clapping hands one and two.
Clapping hands one and two.
But if one hand is covered with glue...
you stick to the glue my darling.

CHORUS:

Glue, glue, stick to the glue
Glue, glue, stick to the glue
Glue, glue, stick to the glue
Stick to the glue my darling.
Stamping feet one and two...
Shaking hands one and two...
Hugging friends one and two...
Brushing teeth one and two...

TOY BOAT

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 3...

Toy Boat.

REPEAT

(These are the only lyrics for this tongue twister)

OH HEY OH HI HELLO

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 1...

In the great state of Ohio
From Cincinnati to Toledo
they never simply say hello...
they sing "Oh hey Oh hi Hello."

CHORUS:

Oh hey Oh hi Hello
Oh hey Oh hi Hello
Oh hey Oh hi Oh hey Oh hi Hello

When they're in the library
They sing it very quietly.

Outside in a great big crowd
They sing together very loud.

When they're sad and teary-eyed
they sing it even as they cry.

Sure they'll sing it when they're sad,
but they'll even sing it when they're mad.

Under water in the swimming pool
it sounds very unusual.

Whenever there's a big full moon
They tend to sing it out of tune.

ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 3...

Alabama, Mississippi
Alabama, New Orleans
Alabama, Mississippi
Shake it on down to New Orleans

Shake, Shake, Shake

Shake it baby

Shake, Shake, Shake

Shake it baby

Shake, Shake, Shake

Shake it baby

Shake it on down to New Orleans

POISON IVY

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 2...

Poison ivy under bushes...
Poison ivy under trees...
Poison ivy in the forest...
Poison ivy on my knees!

CHORUS:

Poison ivy makes me
Scratch scratch scratch
Itch and scratch my knees
Poison ivy by the daisy...
Poison ivy by the rose...
Poison ivy by the flower that I smelled
with my nose!

Poison ivy on the prairie...
Poison ivy on the farm...
Poison ivy in the pasture...
Poison ivy on my arm!

Poison ivy over there...
Poison ivy over here...
Poison ivy all around where I sat
upon my rear!

Poison ivy's green like grass...
Poison ivy looks like clover...
And maybe that is why I am itching all over!

THE SNEEZING SONG

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 3...

Please don't feed me black-eyed peas
You know what they will do
For if you feed me black-eyed peas
I'll have to sneeze....Ah....Ah....Ah Choo!
Please don't feed me macaroni and cheese...
Please don't feed me chocolate chip cookies...

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LIST OF DANCES

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 3...

I made a list of all the dances in this song.
I made a list so that I'd never sing them wrong.
'Cause it's hard to remember
and easy to forget
a list that is sixteen dances long.

(You do)
The tall
The small
The hop
The stop
The slow
The tiptoe
The curl
The swirl
The hide
The slide
The sleep
The creep
The slump
The jump
The sway
The stay

We've done dances like the tiptoe and the hop.
We've done them but it's still not time to stop.
'Cause though we danced it one time
the list would seem brand new
if we read it from the bottom to the top.

MY UPS AND DOWNS

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 1...

As I ascend my arms extend
And I intend to stretch my body straight—
As I elevate.
The music falls I'm getting small
I finally sprawl 'til I can move no more—
On the floor.
My body grows and grows until I pose on
tiptoes
I am way up high—
Near the sky.
Soon I sink my size will shrink I'm on the
brink
Of bruising my kneecaps—
As I collapse.
One last time I think I'll climb
This pantomime has surely been fantastic—
Like elastic.
My knees bend as I descend
This song must end as I am sitting down—
On the ground.

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ONE FROM THE LEFT (A FINGER PLAY)

*If you listen to the lyrics in this finger play...and let
your fingers dance to the sounds of the guitar...you can
figure out motions that will be fun for you! If you want
to watch a video for some ideas, visit my website:
jimgill.com.*

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 3

One from the left and one from the right
Met in the middle and danced all night.
They made up a dance called "The Whoop-De-
Do."
Then they waved goodbye and walked away...
those two.

Two from the left and two from the right
Met in the middle and danced all night.
They made up a dance called "Snips Galore."
Then they waved goodbye and walked away...
those four.

Three from the left and three from the right
Met in the middle and danced all night.
They made up a dance called "The Finger Mix."
Then they waved goodbye and walked away...
those six.

Four from the left and four from the right
Met in the middle and danced all night.
They made up a dance called "Bend and Straight."
Then they waved goodbye and walked away...
those eight.

Five from the left and five from the right
Met in the middle and danced all night.
They made up a dance called "Clap and Clap and
Clap and Clap Again."
Then they waved goodbye and walked away...
all ten.

SLIDING, ROLLING AND JUMPING

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 2...

I woke up in the morning and I **slid**
right out of bed.
I **slid** into the bathroom
and the comb **slid** across my head.
I **slid** into the kitchen
and I **slid** into a chair.
And when I finished breakfast,
I **slid** right out of there.
I **slid** into my coat
and I **slid** my way to work and then
I was **slid** from task to task
and **slid** back home again.
I **slid** into the kitchen and when I was well fed
I **slid** into my pajamas and I **slid** back into
bed.

(Repeat for **Rolled** and **Jump**)

TEA FOR TWO

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AND VINCENT YOUMANS
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From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 3

Tea for two
and two for tea.
Another friend comes and that makes three.
Three for tea
and tea for three.
Add one more and that makes four.
Four for tea
and tea for four.
Should another friend arrive, that makes five.
Tea for five
and five for tea.
Everyone's welcome! It's a tea party!

HAVE YOU SEEN THE TRAMPOLINE?

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 2...

Have you seen the trampoline?
Please look around. Look what we found!
Have you seen the trampoline?
Please look some more. It's on the floor!
Have you seen the trampoline?
It's gone and then it's back again!
Have you seen the trampoline?
It's hard to lose. It's in our shoes!

SILLY DANCE CONTEST

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 1

Dance any way you want to
Dance any way you please
Dance any way you want to
But stop when I say freeze.
Jump as high as you want to...
Dance as fast as you want to...
Dance as slow as you want to...

BEETHOVEN'S FIVE FINGER PLAY

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 1

The time has come...show me your thumb.
Next thing to do...pointers out too.
Middles extend...as they unbend.
Ring fingers next...flex them outstretched.
No time to wait...pinkies out straight.
Here are the plans.
Please clap those hands!

ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 3

Alabama, Mississippi
Alabama, New Orleans
Alabama, Mississippi
Shake it on down to New Orleans
Shake, Shake, Shake
Shake it baby
Shake, Shake, Shake
Shake it baby
Shake, Shake, Shake
Shake it baby
Shake it on down to New Orleans

PLAY GUITAR

Simply listen and add the motions. Lots of toddlers and preschoolers are sure to pretend to play along!
From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 3

Ride a horse.
Row a boat.
Drive a car.
Play guitar.

Bounce a basketball.
Toss it high.
Shoot it far.
Play guitar.

You can play the drums.
And it's fun to play the bass.
And of course you don't need me to say
What other instrument you can play.

Wave goodbye.
Adios.
Au revoir.
Play guitar.

MAY THERE

ALWAYS BE SUNSHINE

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 1

May there always be sunshine
May there always be blue skies
May there always be mama
May there always be me

SPIN AGAIN...AGAIN

Children can, of course, take turns spinning while their name is inserted into the song.
From Jim Gill Sings Do Re Mi...

There was a girl named Lucy Finnegan.
She would spin and spin and spin again.
When the song was over she'd beg to begin again.
Poor Lucy Finnegan.

JUMP UP, TURN AROUND

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 2...

Simple motions and a simply rhyme.
Say it as you play it and repeat two times.

Jump up
Turn around
Clap your hands
Stamp the ground
REPEAT

Let's play it again, but this time try
To say it as you play and stretch your arms
Up high.

Let me suggest that this time you might
Say it as you play it with your eyes
closed tight.

Get ready my friends to take a deep breath
Because I challenge you to play it as you hold
Your breath!

JUMPING AND COUNTING

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 3

Jump Jump Jump Jump
Jumping high are we.
But we'll stop jumping
While we count to three.

Jump Jump Jump Jump
Jumping even more.
But we'll stop jumping
While we count to four.

Jump Jump Jump Jump
Just like pogo sticks.
But let's stop jumping
While we count to six.

Jump Jump Jump Jump
Jumping then we wait.
We stop our jumping
While we count to eight.

Jump Jump Jump Jump
Jumping once again.
But we'll be finished
Once we count to ten.

TOE LEG KNEE

Point to each body part as you sing the words up and down like a musical scale or "DO RE MI."

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 3

Toe, leg, knee, arm, elbow, jaw, teeth, nose.
Nose, teeth, jaw, elbow, arm, knee leg, toe.

CONDUCTING CAN BE FUN

Based on Eine kleine Nachtmusik (Serenade No. 13 for strings in G major) by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.
From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 2

One and one. Conducting can be fun.
(Use just your two index fingers to pretend to conduct the musicians.)

Two and two. Just wave them as I do.
(Now use your index and middle fingers to pretend to conduct the musicians.)

Three and three. Conduct a symphony.
(Use your index, middle and ring fingers to pretend to conduct the musicians.)

Four and four. A chamber music score.
(Add your pinky fingers this time and pretend to conduct the musicians with four fingers on each hand.)

Five and five. Now that two hands have arrived,
Conduct with me this Mozart finale!
(Use both hands with all fingers and thumbs to conduct the finale in dramatic fashion!)

FACE THE FACTS

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 1

Oh...I must face the fact.
My swimming arms are back.
Oh we must face the fact.
Our swimming arms are back.
They are splashing, flapping, stretching,
lapping one full mile exact.
We must face the fact.
Our swimming arms are back.

REPEAT WITH:

...scissor legs...

They are cutting, clipping, slicing, snipping,
trimming the rick rack.

...driving hands...

They are guiding, steering, turning, veering
my air Cadillac..

...binocular eyes...

They are peering, peeking, scanning, seeking
needles in haystacks.

...jumping jacks ...

They are bounding, flapping, jumping,
clapping, picking up the slack.

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KNUCKLES KNEES

From Jim Gill's Celebrated Songs Vol. 1

Knuckles knees
Knuckles nose
Knuckles tummy
Knuckles toes

Knuckles hair
Knuckles hips
Knuckles legs
Knuckles lips

Knuckles straight
Knuckles bend
Knuckles knuckles
That's the end.

All songs copyright Jim Gill, Inc.

Jim has released ten award-winning CDs of music play for young children that are favorites in libraries, classrooms and family rooms. He is also the author of two children's books: *A Soup Opera* and *May There Always Be Sunshine*. Jim has received five separate awards from the American Library Association for his recordings and books over the years.

Jim's CDs and books can be ordered through Jim's website at www.jimgill.com.

Jim's music is available wherever you stream your favorite tunes! Today's workshop playlist is available on both Spotify and Amazon music. The QR codes below provide a direct link:

