

Oats, Peas, Beans, and Barley Grow

Chorus

Oats, peas, beans, and barley grow,
Oats, peas, beans, and barley grow,
Can you or I or anyone know
How oats, peas, beans, and barley grow?

1. First the farmer sows his seed,
Stands erect and takes his ease,
He stamps his foot and claps his hands,
And turns around to view his lands.

Chorus

2. Next the farmer waters the seed,
Stands erect and takes his ease,
He stamps his foot and claps his hands,
And turns around to view his lands.

Chorus

3. Next the farmer hoes the weeds,
Stands erect and takes his ease,
He stamps his foot and claps his hands,
And turns around to view his lands.

Chorus

4. Last the farmer harvests his seed,
Stands erect and takes his ease,
He stamps his foot and claps his hands,
And turns around to view his lands.

Chorus

Children stand in a circle, holding hands. One child is selected to be "Farmer", and stands in the center of the ring.

Chorus: While singing the chorus, children circle around the Farmer to the right.

The Farmer performs the activities described in the first verse: first sowing the seed; then standing at ease; stamping their foot; clapping their hands; and finally,

views their lands by turning around inside the circle while shading their eyes. At the end of the verse, the Farmer points their finger at one of the children in the ring, who then becomes the new Farmer for the next round of the chorus and the second verse. Continue this process throughout all verses.

Repeat the game until all children have had the opportunity to be Farmer.

William Tremble Toe

Four to eight players make the best number. To select "it," the counting out is as follows: All players put down two fingers on the leader's lap, who touches a finger for each word in the following verses:

William Tremble Toe is a good waterman,
He catches hens, puts them in pens
Some lay eggs, some none
Wire, briar, limber lock
Three geese in a flock
One flew east, one flew west,
One flew over the cuckoo's nest
O-U-T, out goes he (she).

The person counted out goes out of hearing, while the others decide to name vehicles for themselves, including one for "it." Usually they select a fine fast one for "it," for if he happens to choose his own, he has to walk home. The leader calls to "it,"

"Which would you rather come home on, a wheelbarrow, a sled, a car, a train, etc., until all are listed. "It" names a vehicle and if he names some one of the group, he must go and carry "it" home. When they arrive the leader asks:

"What've you got there?"

"Bag of nits."

"Shake him till he spits."

(He is bucked and shaken till he mimics a spitter)

"Which would you rather sleep on, a feather bed, or a straw be?"

If he says "feather bed," he is tickled till he drops. If he says straw bed he is trounced against the wall till he releases his hold and falls to the floor like a straw heap.

The game now begins again, and the leader should see that there has been some shifting, else soon the players can figure out in what order to place them selves to be counted out.

Did You Ever See a Lassie (Laddie/Ladder)

Did you ever see a lassie, a lassie, a lassie,
Did you ever see a lassie do this way and that.
Do this way and that way
Do this way and that way
Did you ever see a lassie
Do this way and that.

Children stand in a circle with clasped hands move arms around singing first and second lines. The lassie (or ladder) in the center performs some action as jumping, shaking hands, curtseying, riding, pulling weeds, etc. On the last 2 lines the players drop hands and imitate the previous action. Choose a new lassie or ladder and repeat.

Fiddle-I-Fee

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1. O I had a bird and the bird pleased me, and I fed my bird under yonder tree,
And the bird went Fiddle-i-fee (or whistle this phrase).
2. O I had a cat and the cat pleased me, and I fed my cat under yonder tree,
And the cat went me-ow, and the bird went Fiddle-I-fee (or whistle this phrase).
3. O I had a dog and the dog pleased me, and I fed my dog under yonder tree,
And the dog went bow-wow, and the cat went me-ow, and the bird went Fiddle-I-fee.
4. Duck went quack, quack...
5. Goose went honk, honk...
6. Cow went moo...
7. Ford went get you there, get you there...
8. Woman said honey, honey...
9. Baby said mamy, mamy...

Frog Went-a-Courtin

1. Frog went a-courtin and he did ride, uh huh,
Frog went a –courtin and he did ride, uh huh,
Frog went a – courtin and he did ride, sword and a pistol by his side, uh huh.

2. He rode up to miss mousie’s door, uh huh,
He rode up to miss mousie’s door, uh, huh,
He rode up to miss mousie’s door,
He knocked so hard he made it roar, uh huh.

3. Miss mousie come down and let him in, uh huh....
The way the courted it was a sin, uh huh.

4. He took miss mousie upon his knee, uh huh...
And said Miss mousie wont’ you marry me? uh huh...

5. Uncle rat gave his consent, uh huh...
The weasel wrote the punishment, uh huh.

6. Where shall the wedding supper be, uh huh...
Way down yonder in a hollow tree, uh huh.

7. What shall the wedding supper be, uh huh...
Two green beans and a black eyed pea, uh huh.

8. Froggy went swimming across the lake, uh huh,
He got swallowed by a big black snake, uh huh.

Crawdad Man

Refrain

You get a line and I'll get a pole, Honey
You get a line and I'll get a pole, Babe,
You get a line and I'll get a pole
And we'll go down to the crawdad hole,
Honey, Baby mine.