

# discovery time

## Joking J

Parents and caregivers, extend Discovery Time into your home. Share these fingerplays and activities with young children. **The letter for this theme is J.**

### Jack in the Box

Jack in the box.  
Jack in the box.  
Curl up small.  
*(Curl up low on the floor)*  
Jack in the box.  
Jack in the box.  
Jump up tall.  
*(Jump up as high as you can)*

### Jiggling Jellyfish

*(Tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It")*  
Oh, I wish I was a jiggling jellyfish.  
Oh, I wish I was a jiggling jellyfish.  
I would jiggle and I'd jive,  
With my friends I'd give high fives.  
Oh, I wish I was a jiggling jellyfish.

### Jelly on My Head

*(Touch parts on the body)*  
Jelly on my head, jelly on my toes.  
Jelly on my shirt, jelly on my nose.  
Jelly on my belly,  
Yummy if it is berry!  
Jelly is my favorite food.  
When I'm in a jelly mood!

### Johnny Works with One Hammer

Johnny works with one hammer,  
One hammer, one hammer.  
*(Pound left palm with right fist)*  
Johnny works with one hammer,  
And then he works with two.  
And then he goes to sleep!  
*(Continue counting up as follows:*  
*Two hammers – both fists on legs;*  
*Three hammers – both fists on legs,*  
*One foot on the floor;*  
*Four hammers – both fists on legs,*  
*Both feet on the floor;*  
*Five hammers – both fists on legs,*  
*Both feet on floor and nod head up and down)*

### Two Little Blackbirds

Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill.  
*(Tap index fingers and thumbs together)*  
One named Jack.  
*(Raise one hand)*  
One named Jill.  
*(Raise the other hand)*  
Fly away Jack.  
*(Fly one hand behind back)*  
Fly away Jill.  
*(Fly other hand behind back)*  
Come back Jack.  
*(Fly one hand back)*  
Come back Jill.  
*(Fly other hand back)*



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Help your child get ready to read with these simple activities.

- **Talking:** As you share a book with your child and talk about the pictures, leave enough time for your child to babble back.
- **Singing:** Sing “Two Little Blackbirds” with your child. Singing helps your child realize that words are made of smaller sounds, which will help him when he learns to read.
- **Reading:** Record yourself reading a favorite book with your child. Have him help with sound effects.
- **Writing:** Circles and triangles are often parts of letters. Being able to see shapes will help your child recognize letters when learning to read.
- **Playing:** By playing games that involve role-playing, taking turns, and showing appreciation to children who take turns, you are helping children learn how to regulate themselves.

## family literacy tip

### Family Influence

Parents and family have a profound influence upon children, not only for their vocabulary, but also for quality and quantity of literary experiences they provide. Oral language development is so important. It can be predicted at age 3 if a child will have problems with reading in elementary school.

Nevills, Pamela, and Patricia Wolfe. *Building the Reading Brain PreK-3*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., p.45. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, 2009



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