

Little Hands, Fingerplays & Action Songs: Seasonal Rhymes & Creative Play for 2- to 6-Year-Olds, Williamson Little Hands Series

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Fingerplays and action songs are the stuff that preschool and story hours are made of. This title offers opportunities to create new favorites for children to enjoy.

Organized according to the four seasons, each section contains fingerplays, songs, simple crafts, and easy seasonal recipes. In addition, the “Check the Calendar” section teaches children about interesting dates, such as Johnny Appleseed’s birthday, and “Little Hands Story Corner” lists several titles of books that will tie in with the fingerplays.

“Three Cheers for Fall!” includes fingerplays and songs about harvest, leaves, animal friends, school, community helpers, and Halloween and Thanksgiving. “Welcome Winter!” explores winter weather and celebrates the winter holidays of Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Year’s, plus others. “Jump Into Spring!” discusses windy and rainy weather, planting time, and more. “Summertime Fun!” completes the seasons, with fun about sunny days, bugs, and just being silly.

Children will love the funny songs and rhymes alone, with mom or dad, or in a group. The easy-to-learn fingerplays give children opportunities to try out new words and movements, give their imaginations a workout, and allow participation in a group setting. Old favorites are included, such as “Five Little Pumpkins,” “Where Is Thumbkin?” and “The Wheels on the Bus,” but even experienced teachers will find new fingerplays to introduce. Stetson and Congdon know how to let wigglers and gigglers have fun! Parents and teachers will appreciate the simple recipes, such as applesauce, and art projects. Resources for parents are listed in the back, and include addresses and websites, and an index is included. This is a wonderful resource for parents and teachers of pre-school and primary students.

TRACY FITZWATER (November / December 2001)

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