

Mother Goose's Never Ending Tea Party

Listen and Imagine — A "How-to-ParTea" Manual

Conversation stoppers are questions that have a 'yes' or 'no' answer or that have a so-called right or wrong answer. This activity sheet only has conversation-starters because talking and inter-play are the first step to literacy. Plus they're fun!

Dozy Dawn Bounce-up-byes

"Donkey, Donkey, Old And Gray"

Do you hear pieces of Cerri's donkey dream as the flugel horn plays her awake? What are some images she mutters about, half-asleep? Does the tinkle of wind chimes in the song make you think of teacups too? What else? What sights and sounds have been in a dream of yours? Tell us!

"Wake Up, Baby, Day's A-breaking"

Already Cerri's "wheels are turning". (That means her brain is cooking up an idea!) But she needs everybody to wake up so she can tell it. What trick does Cerri play on her dad to get him to wake up sooner? Can you hear the trick?

Wuddle We Doo? Wishes

"3 Good Wishes"

The daddy and daughter have a rhyming *dialogue*. (That means a back-and-forth conversation).

Can you find some rhyming words?

The daddy and daughter disagree, but then they *compromise*. (That means it's not the idea either one had to begin with, but it's one they decide upon together that is acceptable to both.) Can you hear the compromise?

What does Cerri want to do with the day? Can you fill in the blanks?

We're having a _____

Where will it be? _____

What time will it be? _____ (that's the compromise!)

Do you know what "half-past" means?

Draw your own clock with hands to keep track of tea party time as we go through the day.

Do the three wishes rhyme? Say them aloud all three in a row

(See how it's like "Say cheese!"? So you could get someone to take your picture!)

What's that pecking sound at the end that happens three times? Make your mouth into a kiss. How do you think you might spell the sound you make when you kiss? Maybe...m-m-mp! Or, "M-M-MPAH!" for a louder kiss?

How silly is this? (kiss...this — did you catch that rhyme?)

Put on the Skillet! It's Play-rhyme Time!

"Short'nin Bread/Up on my lap Rap"

Okay, kids! Everybody up! (Either up on a lap or up on your feet.) As you listen to the "Up on my lap Baby Rap", can you point to each part of your body when you hear the word? (point to nose when you hear "nose", belly button when you hear "belly button" and so on.) Towards the end you have to be pretty fast!

Okay, all you grown-ups! Put a baby on your lap and do the same. Tickling allowed.

(Tickling aloud, get it? Hmm... how do you think that would sound?)

"Two Little Eyes To Look Around"

Can you hear how the baby sounds different when the mama points to the mouth?

(Hint: The mama's doing more than pointing... uh-huh, good thing baby has no teeth!)

“Eye Winker, Tom Tinker”

Ahhh! So that’s how “Tickling Aloud” sounds!

Why do you think they call your chin a chin “chopper” and your throat a “Gully” or a “Guzzle-whopper”?

“Pat-a-cake, Pat-a-cake”

This is a clapping game and because kids learn through and love repetition, there are three versions provided—a sung one, an alone one, and a together one.

What kinds of things do you like to cook with your grown up? Can I have the recipe? I’ll give you mine for fritters. (another form of exchange!)

“Pease Porridge Hot”

This is a more complicated clapping game with a pattern. Again, there are two versions, a together one and an alone one. For the second, grab some porridge pots and pans (like Max in “Max Found Two Sticks” did!) and join the percussion player. In the spaces she leaves in the poem, repeat the words after her.

(It’s a challenge to bang and recite at the same time!)

By the way, what do you think pease porridge is?

What’s your favorite breakfast? Do you think you would still like it if it was nine days old? Want to make up a rhyme about it? Can you clap to the rhyme? Did you know Paul McCartney’s song “Yesterday” was originally called “Scrambled Eggs”? Can you count the number of syllables in *Yesterday* and in *Scrambled Eggs*? Can you clap them?

“When I Was Young”

Listen and tell us what you learn about Cerri’s dad and his Aunt Jane’s wee tea shop?

(Be sure to sing along with the “So Early in the morning” part!)

Does your mom or dad have a story about when he or she was young that you like to hear over and over again?

What story of your life so far do you think you might want to tell your children when you grow up?

“Bounce, Bounce, Bounce”

Sit in a chair with your doll or teddy bear on your feet. Then, holding on to both paws, act out this song, moving your bouncing ‘baby’ from feet to knee to lap to shoulder to head as the song goes along.

When you hear the word “bounce”, how many different things does it make you think of? Draw a picture of one.

(bouncing ball, bouncing on bed, bouncing for joy, bouncing on a trampoline, bouncing on a bumpy road, etc.)

Did you ever read the book called “Bounce”?

Plan-a-Tea Party Tunes

“Wash the Dishes”

Do you have a dishwasher? In this family, it’s the dad!

Do you ever put anything besides dishes in a dishwasher? My dentist puts toothbrushes.

(Warning: paper plates are not dishwasher-safe)

In this song, every time you hear the words “ring the bell for tea”, ring a bell.

Do you remember from earlier what the 3 good wishes are? (they rhyme)

You know what to do after you hear the words “3 good kisses”, don’t you?

“You And Me, Time For Tea”

In this song, the daddy and daughter are anticipating their afternoon tea party. That means they’re looking forward to it and imagining what it’s going to be like.

Can you paint a picture of what you think “Dressed in fancy clothes” would look like?

Try acting out this song. You can even “gulp and burp” for real if you want to!

Do you think it’s true “music’s always free?” I do, because any of us can make music of some kind (yes, even gulping and burping is music, if done to a rhythmic way!)

“Who shall we invite?”

Writing “Invites”

“Will You Come To My Party?”

Date: Today

Time: Half-past 3

Place: by the Sea

The Invitations arrive!

“Early In The Morning At Eight O’clock”

Can you hear how the clock keeps changing? The verse stops repeating at 12:00, or noon — Why do you think that is? At the end of the rap, every time you hear “up jumps”, can you ‘jump in’ and shout a name? (preferably yours!)

R.S.V.P. Can They Go? Yes or No?

“The Cat’s Got The Measles”

Can you hear the cat meowing? Did you ever have the measles or other ‘spots’? Did the measles make you ‘meow’ too?

“Five Little Monkeys”

Can you do the motions and keep going till there’s only one little monkey jumping?

“Bobby Shaftoe’s Gone To Sea / My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean”

Who couldn’t attend the tea party and how come? (boo-hoo)

To Market for Tea Party Treats

“The Music of the Marketplace”

What do you hear the vendors trying to sell? Do you hear the name of a book? Here’s a clue: Something about caps!

“Father And Mother And Uncle John (Giddyup Game)”

“To Market, To Market To Buy A Fat Pig”

How are the waltz and the jig different? (distinction between counting 1-2-3, 1-2-3, . . . and 1-2, 1-2, 1-2. . .)

“This Little Piggy Went To Market”

“Ride A Cock Horse”

“Old Mother Hubbard”

“Simple Simon”

Now, can you name who went shopping and what food they found?

“A Tisket A Tasket”

Have you ever lost an important belonging of yours? Describe it. (Was it green?)

What are some good ways you know to keep track of things?

Now that you’ve heard this whole marketplace part, can you name who went shopping and what food they found?

What would you buy to bring to a tea party potluck?

Tea party travel arrangements

“Up on My Knee Baby Rap/ Trot Along To Boston” (Giddyup Game!)

“I Saw A Ship A-sailing”

“Hickory, Dickory, Dock 1”

“Down By The Station”

Name as many modes of transportation as you can, including the 3 described in these songs.

How many ways can you name to travel by foot? (skip, gallop, skate, etc.)

Cozy Cottage Party Preparations

“Do, Re, Mi Tea Party Time”

What do you think this family’s “To Do” list has on it? (e.g. iron tablecloth)

“Polly Put the Kettle On/Clippidy, Clop” (Giddyup Game!)

Why do you think 2-year-old Zoe calls this the “2 Grouchy Grammas” song?

Make up a game like Monkey in the Middle, with one child who’s the teapot in the middle between Polly and Suky.

The teapot sings “I’m a Little Teapot”. Then Polly takes hold by the handle and sings “Polly put the kettle on”,

then the Teapot song, then the Suky song, and so on.

How do you think the Seaside Cozy Cottage was decorated?

What were sisters Polly and Suky squabbling about?

Can you fill up this empty cottage? How ’bout decorate the outside?

Finally! Friends Arrive!

“Cross Patch” • “Knock At the Door” • “Dusty Bill” • “My Aunt Jane” • “Little Tommy Tucker”
“Miss Mary Mack” • “Mary Had a Little Lamb” • “Where is Thumbkin” • “Sing a Song of Sixpence”
“Queen of Hearts” • “Old King Cole” • “Cross Patch draw the latch sit by the fire and spin”

What’s a “latch” anyway? And what does “sit by the fire and spin” mean? Are they sitting in swivel chairs and spinning around? Or spinning a top or what?

When you get to the part of the song where it says “call your neighbor in,” can you shout out a friend’s name who you would invite? (real or imaginary!)

Knock Knock. Who’s there?

How many guests came a-knocking? Can you name the company who came? Who ran away?

Who in the Royal Family attended? Who had a bad cough? Why, do you think?

TEATIME! Eat Drink and be Merry!

“I had a Sausage”

“Jelly on a Plate”

“I’m a Little Tea Pot”

“Hot Cocoa / I’m a Little Tea Pot”

“Apple Cider Song / I’m a Little Tea Pot”

How many things to eat or drink do you hear sung about in this party part? What frizzles? What wobbles?

What does the teakettle get all worked up about?

Can you draw a Mother Goose feast?

Yippee! An arrival by sea!

“My Bonnie”

“Oh, I Do Like to be Beside the Seaside”

Who is it? Where does everybody “tiddley-pom-pom” off to?

Take this Re-Bopportunity to quack along with Captain Quackamore and crew!

Shoreline Shindig!

“Danced With the Girl With a Hole in her Stocking” • “I See The Moon” • “Dance to Your Daddy”

Dozy Dusk Lullabies

“Sleepy you, Sleepy Me”

“Raisins & Almonds”

“Hush-a-Bye Baby/Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”

“All the Pretty Little Horses”

Do you hear the dad say “goodnight moon?” Do you know that book?

Who or what else do you think the party-goers should say goodnight to?

(Catch a rhyme time)

Now *you* plan a party, any old party — a hot chocolate sledding party, a sugar on snow party, a beach party, a birthday party, a dance party, a just-because party.

Here’s a list of questions to help you plan:

What kind of party?

Where will it be?

When will it be, both day and time?

Who’s coming?

What’s to eat? What’s to drink?

How do guests get there?

What activities will there be? Games? Dances? Talking? Singing? Pin the something on the something?