

# The Land of Make Believe

## **SING | Hippity Hop (to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”)**

This is a fun song that can be done sitting with baby in parent and caregiver’s lap or a child hopping.

Hip, hip, hippity hop (bounce baby)  
Hippity, hippity, hop (bounce baby)  
We’ll hop around the room today (bounce baby)  
Until it’s time to stop. (stop bouncing baby)

## **TALK | Five Little Gingerbread Men Counting Game**

Have fun counting down the gingerbread men in this repetitive rhyme. Use the templates of the gingerbread man to help tell the rhyme. For additional hands-on participation and talking opportunity, let the children color and decorate one of the gingerbread men for the rhyme.

5 little gingerbread men lying on the tray.  
1 jumped up and ran away!  
Catch me, catch me, if you can.  
I run really fast.  
I’m the gingerbread man!

Additional Verses

4 little gingerbread men . . .  
3 little gingerbread men . . .  
2 little gingerbread men . . .  
1 little gingerbread man . . .

## **WRITE | Texture Sorting**

Put together a small bowl that has cotton balls, marshmallows and beans in it. Talk with your child about what they feel like: squishy, soft, sticky, smooth, etc. Then have them sort by what they are.

For babies, you can use cotton balls and large marshmallows and have the baby feel each one before sorting them.

## **PLAY | There Was a Crooked Man**

### **Supplies:**

- Masking or painters tape, chalk, yarn, or string

Make a crooked tape line on the floor (you can also make a chalk line outside or create one with yarn or a string. Have children walk the crooked line. Have them walk on the line backward, sideways, and jumping on it. Modify it for your child's abilities. An adult can walk the baby on the line. A toddler might walk backwards and forward, etc.

## **Read | There Once Were Three Bears**

Share this version of the classic story.

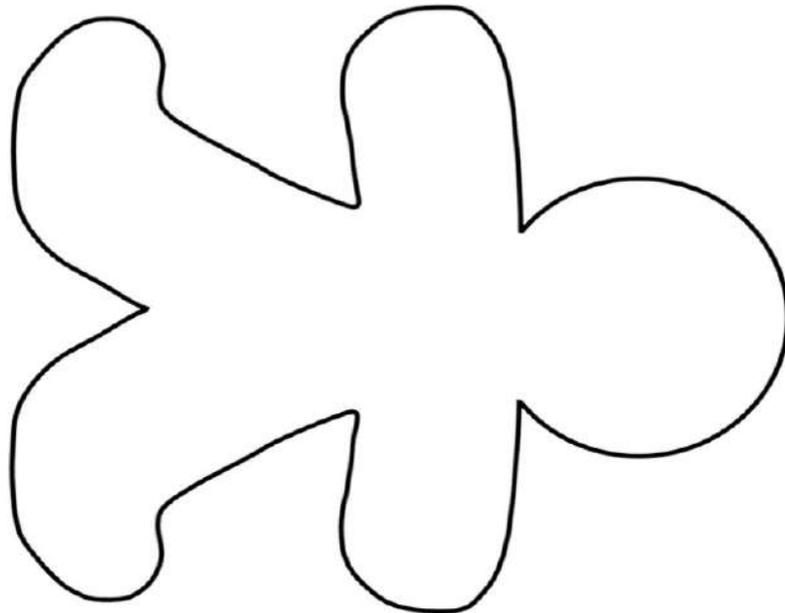
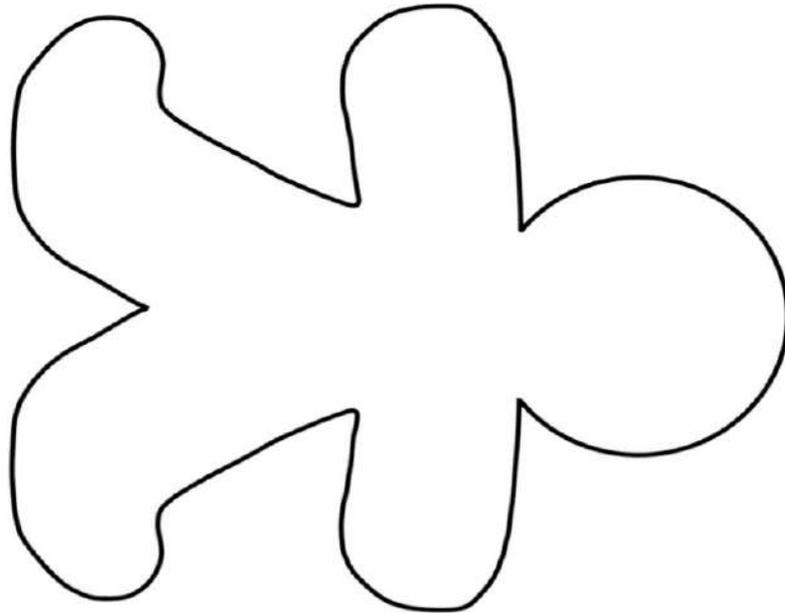
There once were three brown bears,  
Mother, Father, Baby Bear.  
Mother's food was way too cold.  
Father's food was way too hot.  
Baby's food was all gone.  
Someone ate it, so he cried.

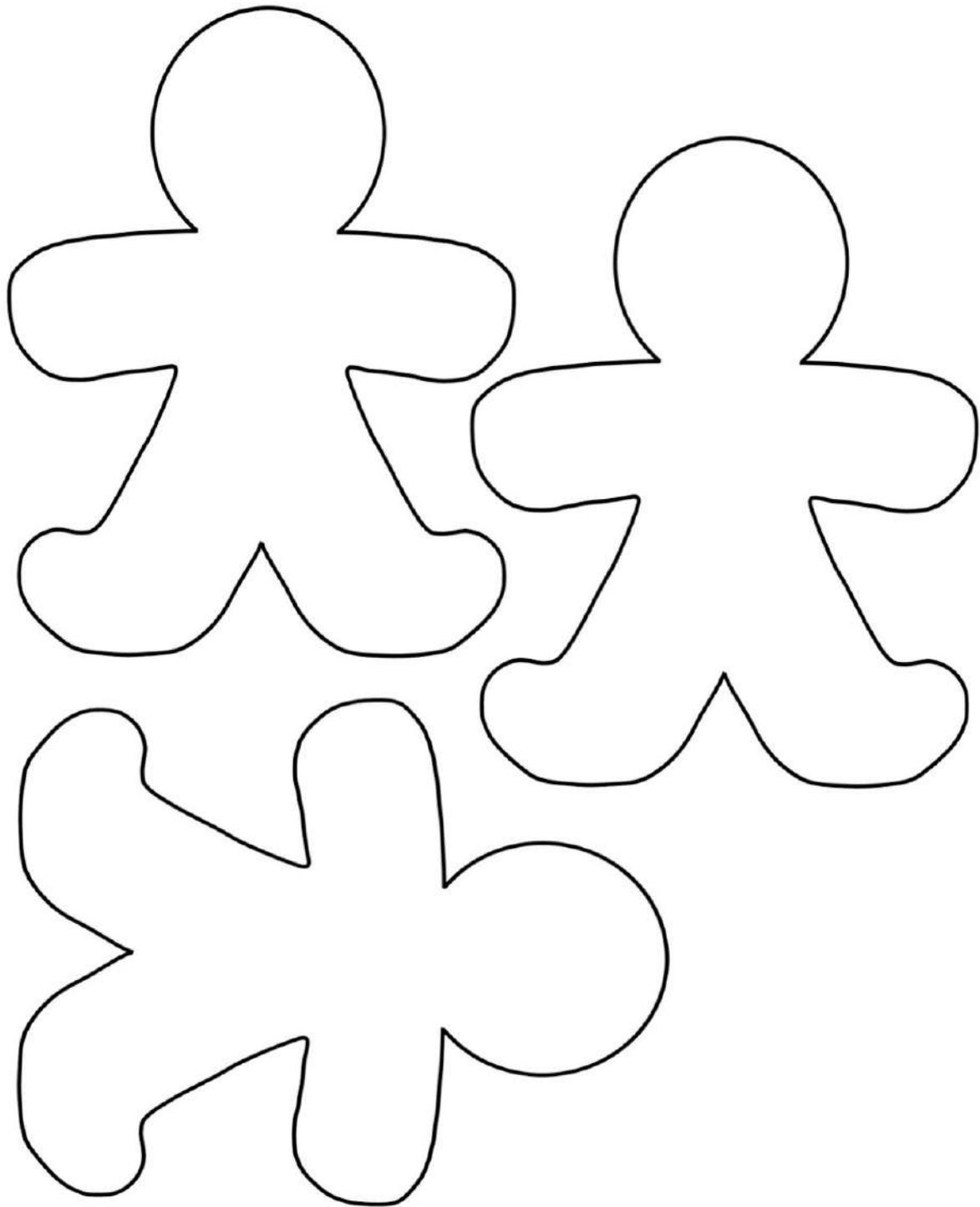
There once was three brown bears,  
Mother, Father, Baby Bear.  
Mother's Chair was way too low.  
Father's chair was way too high.  
Baby's chair was just right.  
But when she sat, she broke it.

There once three brown bears,  
Mother, Father, Baby Bear.  
Mother's bed was way too soft.  
Father's bed was way too hard.  
Baby's bed was occupied.  
Someone strange was sleeping there.  
"Come here quickly," Baby cried.  
"Someone's sleeping in my bed!"  
"Who are you?" asked Baby Bear.  
"Who are you?" asked Goldilocks.  
"You better run," said Baby Bear.  
"I will," said Goldilocks.



# Gingerbread Boy Templates





# The Land of Mother Goose

## **TALK** | Two Little Blackbirds

Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill (hold up both pointer fingers)  
One named Jack (hold out right pointer finger)  
And one named Jill. (hold out left pointer finger)  
Fly away Jack. (place right hand behind back)  
Fly away Jill. (place left hand behind back)  
Come back Jack, (bring right pointer finger back out )  
Come back Jill. (bring left pointer finger back out )



### Additional verses:

One named Early and one named Late, sitting on a gate.  
One named Fast and one named Slow, sitting on a pole.  
One named Soft and one named Loud, sitting on a cloud.

## **READ** | Three Pigs

Read this shortened version of the Three Little Pigs. Have your child color the attached finger puppets and then have them retell the story to you. (Source: [www.education.com](http://www.education.com))

One little pig went to find his way,  
Over the hill not far away.  
He built his home of flimsy straw,  
But his house had a fatal flaw.  
The next little pig went to find his way,  
Over the hill not far away.  
He built a home of fragile sticks.  
He should have used his brother's bricks.  
The third little pig went to find his way,  
Over the hill not far away.  
He built his home of sturdy bricks  
And he was safe from the wolf's mean tricks.

## **WRITE** | Mary's Little Sheep

In this activity, toddlers will work on fine motor skills by wrapping yarn around their sheep. Building strength and coordination in their hands will help with writing and other skills later.

### Supplies:

- Image of a sheep
- Scissors
- Card Stock
- Yarn



### Instructions:

Cut out the sheep and fold in the middle to make a tented sheep. Give your child a sheep and some yarn. Have them cover the sheep with the yarn by wrapping it around them.

## **PLAY | In and Out**

This game is one that will introduce beginning concepts such as full and empty, big and small. When playing this game with your child, point out these opposites as they go.

### **Supplies**

- Small boxes or baskets
- Blocks
- Soft Toys
- Rattles
- Measuring Cups
- Plastic Bottles (cleaned and empty)

### **Instructions**

Fill each box or basket with a few items of different sizes, shapes, and colors. Parents and caregivers should help the child pick up the box or basket, turn over, and dump items out. Work together with your child to put the items back in the box or basket. Ask your child to pick up items based on color, shape, or size and place them in the box or basket.



## **SING | Where is Thumbkin?**

(sung to the tune of “Frere Jacques”)

In this song, we’re showing children the fingers on their hands and how to move them from being in a fist to being straight. Infants hold their hands in fists most often. Using songs like this encourage them to exercise their hands and fingers in a playful way.

For a twist on the rhyme actions, use a marker to draw faces on the pads of fingers and thumbs. Sing the extra verse for added fun.

Where is Thumbkin? Where is Thumbkin? (hands in fists in front of you)

Here I am. Here I am. (bring out one thumb and then the other)

How are you today, sir? (make one thumb bow)

Very well, I thank you. (make the other thumb bow)

Run away. Run away. (put one hand, then the other behind back)

Repeat the song replacing “Thumbkin” with the following:

Pointer (index finger)

Tallman (middle finger)

Ringman (ring finger)

Pinkie (little finger)

Family (wave all fingers)

The final verse, instead of “run away” sing :

Here to stay. Here to stay. (give baby a little tickle with hands)

# FINGER PUPPET THEATRE

## The Three Little Pigs

Color, cut out, and wrap these puppets around your fingers for a fun re-enactment of "The Three Little Pigs."

