

SOME SONGS FROM JIM GILL'S RECORDINGS

THE TEMPO MARCHES ON 🎶

(ADAPTED FROM THE TRADITIONAL MELODY BY JIM GILL)

We are marching to the rhythm.
We are marching to the beat.
We are lifting up our knees
and we are stamping down our feet.
But the song keeps getting faster
with each verse that we complete.
The tempo marches on.

CHORUS:

Faster, faster, faster, faster.
Faster, faster, faster, faster.
Faster, faster, faster, faster.
The tempo marches on.

Instead of marching, try clapping or stamping along with this song.

SWING YOUR PARTNER 🎶

In a square dance, the caller gives very specific directions for the dancers to follow. This is not a traditional square dance, of course. It is a simplified version that requires the ability to calm down after each rousing "swing your partner" sequence and follow a few simple directions.

Wave to your neighbor
And to your friend down the way.
Wave to your partner
And let me just say
That every preschooler
And every kindergartner
Should now be ready to
SWING YOUR PARTNER!

CHORUS:

Swing your partner 'round and 'round
Skippin' and stampin' on the ground
Locking arms with a friend
Around and around until the end.
Now swing around in the other direction
Around with care and great affection.
Thankfully it's in the plans
To all slow down and prepare to shake hands.
Shake hands with your neighbor
And with your friend down the way.
Shake hands with your partner
And let me just say
That every preschooler
And every kindergartner
Should now be ready to
Swing Your Partner!

REPEAT CHORUS, BUT INSERT THESE LAST LINES:

If you feel dizzy you'll be happy that now
It's time to slow down and prepare to bow.

Bow to your neighbor
And to your friend down the way.
Bow to your partner
And let me just say
That every preschooler
And every kindergartner
Should now be ready to
SWING YOUR PARTNER!

REPEAT CHORUS, BUT INSERT THIS ENDING:

If you've had enough of 'round and 'round
Let's slow it up and all sit down.

TOE LEG KNEE 🎶

Toe, leg, knee, arm, elbow, jaw, teeth, nose.
Nose, teeth, jaw, elbow, arm, knee, leg, toe.

Toe, leg, toe.

Toe, leg, toe.

Elbow, jaw, teeth, nose.

REPEAT

Elbow, jaw, arm.

REPEAT

Toe, leg, toe.

Toe, leg, toe.

Elbow, jaw, teeth, nose.

TOY BOAT 🎶

Toy boat.

REPEAT

These are the only lyrics for this tongue twister.

LIST OF DANCES ★

I made a list of all the dances in this song.
I made a list so that I'd never sing them wrong.
'Cause it's hard to remember
and easy to forget
a list that is sixteen dances long.

(You do)
The tall
The small
The hop
The stop
The slow
The tiptoe
The curl
The twirl
The hide
The slide
The sleep
The creep
The slump
The jump
The sway
The stay

We've done dances like the tiptoe and the hop.
We've done them but it's still not time to stop.
'Cause though we danced it one time
the list would seem brand new
if we read it from the bottom to the top.

THE IRRATIONAL ANTHEM 🎶

Did you know that the melody to "The Star Spangled Banner" is an old English tavern song? Francis Scott Key's poem was sung to the tune of "Anacreon in Heaven" and it caught on. It took until 1931, however, for the song to officially become our national anthem. My own "Irrational Anthem" uses the same melody to create a game that begins simply, but builds to irrational expectations.

Oh say can you see me slap on my knee?
If you'll do the same, we'll begin this new game.

Oh but say I have plans to add clapping hands.
And this we'll repeat 'til the song is complete.

Oh say just suppose that we tried tapping toes
And attempted all three simultaneously.

Oh say have you tried to sway side to side?
Lean left, then reverse ... on this, the
fourth verse.

Oh say I'll advise that you now close your eyes.
And let me remark ... it's more fun in the dark.

Oh say one more thing. Do you think you could sing?
La la la la la la la la la la la la.....

OH HEY OH HI HELLO ★

In the great state of Ohio
from Cincinnati to Toledo
they never simply say hello...
they sing "Oh hey Oh hi Hello."

CHORUS:

Oh hey Oh hi Hello
Oh hey Oh hi Hello
Oh hey Oh hi Oh hey Oh hi Hello

When they're in the library
they sing it very quietly.

Outside in a great big crowd
they sing together very loud.

When they're sad and teary-eyed
they sing it even as they cry.

Sure they'll sing it when they're sad,
but they'll even sing it when they're mad.

Under water in the swimming pool
it sounds very unusual.

Whenever there's a big full moon
they tend to sing it out of tune.

🎶 INCLUDED ON *JIM GILL SINGS THE SNEEZING SONG AND OTHER CONTAGIOUS TUNES* (1993)

★ INCLUDED ON *JIM GILL MAKES IT NOISY IN BOISE, IDAHO* (1996)

🎶 INCLUDED ON *JIM GILL SINGS DO RE MI ON HIS TOE LEG KNEE* (1999)

🎶 INCLUDED ON *JIM GILL'S IRRATIONAL ANTHEM AND MORE SALUTES TO NONSENSE* (2001)

🎶 INCLUDED ON *JIM GILL SINGS MOVING RHYMES FOR MODERN TIMES* (2005)

ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI 🎶

(TRADITIONAL)

Alabama, Mississippi
Alabama, New Orleans
Alabama, Mississippi
Shake it on down to New Orleans
Shake, Shake, Shake
Shake it baby
Shake, Shake, Shake
Shake it baby
Shake, Shake, Shake
Shake it baby
Shake it on down to New Orleans

CAN'T WAIT TO CELEBRATE 🎶

*Clap, stamp, wave and bounce along.
Just be ready to stop and waaaaaaaait!*

We clap our hands when we get together.
Clap our hands to celebrate.
We clap our hands when we get together.
My friends and I can hardly wait ...

To stamp our feet ...

To wave hello ...

To bounce up and down ...

To clap our hands ...

THE SNEEZING SONG 🎶

A song about food allergies.

Please don't feed me black-eyed peas
You know what they will do
For if you feed me black-eyed peas
I'll have to sneeze ... Ah ... Ah ... Ah Choo!
Please don't feed me macaroni and cheese ...
Please don't feed me chocolate chip cookies ...

SLIDING, ROLLING, AND JUMPING 🎶

There are, of course, a number of ways that children could play along with this song. I have the children listen for the words "slid," "rolled" and "jump." I have them use a hand motion for "slid" or "rolled" each time that they hear those words. Guess what the children do each time they hear the word "jump"?

I woke up in the morning and I slid right out of bed.
I slid into the bathroom and the comb slid across my head.
I slid into the kitchen and I slid into a chair.
And when I finished breakfast, I slid right out of there.
I slid into my coat and I slid my way to work and then
I was slid from task to task and slid back home again.
I slid into the kitchen and when I was well fed
I slid into my pajamas and I slid back into bed.

REPEAT FOR ROLLED AND JUMP

JUMPING AND COUNTING 🎶

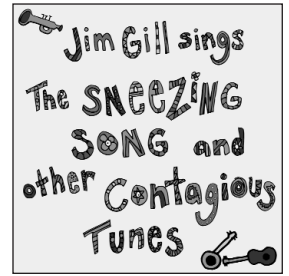
Jump Jump Jump Jump
Jumping high are we.
But we'll stop jumping
While we count to three.

Jump Jump Jump Jump
Jumping even more.
But we'll stop jumping
While we count to four.

Jump Jump Jump Jump
Just like pogo sticks.
But let's stop jumping
While we count to six.

Jump Jump Jump Jump
Jumping then we wait.
We stop our jumping
While we count to eight.

Jump Jump Jump Jump
Jumping once again.
But we'll be finished
Once we count to ten.



SHAKIN' EVERYWHERE

Gallup is a town in northwest New Mexico. Tarrytown, New York is just north of New York City. Wilmington is on the southeast coast of North Carolina. Montpelier is the capital of Vermont.

I learned a little dance out west in Gallup.
It's a dance they call shakin' from the bottom up.
First your toes are shakin'.
Then your knees are shakin'.
Your legs are shakin'.
Your whole body is shakin'.
I learned a little dance while in Tarrytown.
It's a dance they call shakin' from the top down.
First your hair is shakin'.
Then your chin is shakin'.
Your head is shakin'.
Your whole body is shakin'.
I learned a little dance out in Wilmington.
It's a dance they call shakin' from the sides in.
Your fingers are shakin'.
Then your wrists are shakin'.
Your arms are shakin'.
Your whole body is shakin'.
I learned a little dance up in Montpelier.
It's a dance they call shakin' everywhere.
Your hips are shakin'.
Your shoulders are shakin'.
Your elbows are shakin'.
Your whole body is shakin'.

SPIN AGAIN... AGAIN

(ADAPTED FROM THE TRADITIONAL MELODY BY JIM GILL)

There was a girl named Lucy Finnegan.
She would spin and spin and spin again.
When the song was over she'd beg to begin again.
Poor Lucy Finneegan.

SPIN AGAIN!

REPEAT

Children can, of course, take turns spinning and spinning while their name is inserted into the song. I enjoy spinning around and around on an office chair in this game... perhaps that is why I have had trouble holding onto a job.

STICK TO THE GLUE

(TRADITIONAL, ADAPTED BY JIM GILL)

Clapping hands one and two.
Clapping hands one and two.
But if one hand is covered with glue...
you stick to the glue my darling.

CHORUS:

Glue, glue, stick to the glue
Glue, glue, stick to the glue
Glue, glue, stick to the glue
Stick to the glue my darling.
Stamping feet one and two...
Shaking hands one and two...
Hugging friends one and two...
Brushing teeth one and two...

FAMILY GOODBYES

In my family you just stay put
'Til we've all waved goodbye with a foot.
And no one gets up from a chair
'Til we've all waved goodbye with our hair.
And departure time hasn't come
'Til we've all waved goodbye with a thumb.
And my mother says no one goes
'Til she's waved goodbye with her nose.
And in my family you never go
'Til we've all waved goodbye with a toe.
And no one takes any trips
'Til we've all waved goodbye with our lips.
And no one can be dismissed
'Til we've all waved goodbye with a wrist.
And still mother says no one goes
'Til she's waved goodbye with her nose.
And in my family you cannot flee
'Til we've all waved goodbye with a knee.
And dismissals cannot begin
'Til we've all waved goodbye with the chin.
And no family member is sprung
'Til we've all waved goodbye with the tongue.
And no one can disappear
'Til we've all waved goodbye with an ear.
And leaving we cannot allow
'Til we've all waved goodbye with a brow.

POISON IVY

Poison ivy under bushes...
Poison ivy under trees...
Poison ivy in the forest...
Poison ivy on my knees!
CHORUS:
Poison ivy makes me
Scratch scratch scratch
Itch and scratch my knees
MORE VERSES:
Poison ivy by the daisy...
Poison ivy by the rose...
Poison ivy by the flower that I smelled with my nose!
Poison ivy on the prairie...
Poison ivy on the farm...
Poison ivy in the pasture...
Poison ivy on my arm!
Poison ivy over there...
Poison ivy over here...
Poison ivy all around where I sat upon my rear!
Poison ivy's green like grass...
Poison ivy looks like clover...
And maybe that is why I am itching all over!

MAY THERE ALWAYS BE SUNSHINE

(TRADITIONAL)

May there always be sunshine
May there always be blue skies
May there always be mama
May there always be me

FACE THE FACTS

I must face the fact. My swimming arms are back.
We must face the fact. Our swimming arms are back.
They are splashing, flapping, stretching, lapping one full mile exact.
We must face the fact. Our swimming arms are back.
I must face the fact. My scissor legs are back.
We must face the fact. Our scissor legs are back.
They are cutting, clipping, slicing, snipping, trimming the rick rack.
We must face the fact. Our scissor legs are back.
I must face the fact. My driving hands are back.
We must face the fact. Our driving hands are back.
They are guiding, steering, turning, veering my air Cadillac.
We must face the fact. Our driving hands are back.
I must face the fact. My binocular eyes are back.
We must face the fact. Our binocular eyes are back.
They are peering, peeking, scanning, seeking needles in haystacks.
We must face the fact. Our binocular eyes are back.
I must face the fact. My jumping jacks are back.
We must face the fact. Our jumping jacks are back.
They are bounding, flapping, jumping, clapping, picking up the slack.
We must face the fact. Our jumping jacks are back.

COLOR GAME

My daughters and I like to play this game when we are wearing very colorful clothing or sitting on a very colorful carpet. We just pretend to "pick" the colors as the game moves along.

Take red, put it on your head.
Take blue, put it on your shoe.
Take black, put it on your back.
Take yellow, put it on your elbow.
Take white, put it on your right.
Take brown, put it all around.
Take the color of a rose, put it on your nose.
Take the color of snow, put it on your toe.
Take the color of sand, put it on your hand.
Take the color of cheese, put it on your knees.
Take the color of jelly, put it on your belly.
Take the color of bubble gum, put it on your thumb.
Take the color of your skin, put it on your chin.
Take the color of your hair, wave it in the air.
Take the color of your eye, hold it up high.

JIM GILL'S LULLABY

A glass of warm milk and counting sheep,
these are some things that put me to... sleep...
Bedtime stories and lullabies,
always make me close my... eyes...
When it's late and I turn out the light,
then it's time to say... goodnight...

JUMP UP, TURN AROUND

Simple motions and a simple rhyme.
Say it as you play it and repeat two times.

Jump up
Turn around
Clap your hands
Stamp the ground

REPEAT

Let's play it again, but this time try
To say it as you play and stretch your arms up high.
Let me suggest that this time you might
Say it as you play it with your eyes closed tight.
Get ready my friends to take a deep breath
Because I challenge you to play it as you hold your breath!

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