Open, Shut Them

Open, shut them, (Open hands wide, then make a fist.)
Open, shut them, (Repeat.)
Give a little clap. (Clap hands.)
Open, shut them,
Open, shut them,
Put them in your lap. (Place hands in lap, folded.)
Creep them, creep them,
Creep them, creep them, (Slowly walk fingers up body to chin)
Right up to your chin.
Open wide your little mouth (Open mouth.)
But do not let them in. (Shake head to indicate “no.”)
Open, shut them,
Open, shut them,
To your shoulders fly. (Flutter hands like bird to shoulders.)
Open, shut them,
Open, shut them,
Flutter to the sky, (Flutter hands down.)
Falling, falling, falling, falling,
Almost to the ground. (Flutter hands down.)
Quickly pick them up again (Hold hands up.)
And turn them round and round.

(Traditional, North America)
Hands on Shoulders

Hands on shoulders, hands on knees,
Hands behind you, if you please.
Touch your shoulders, now your nose,
Now your ears and now your toes.
Hands up high in the air,
Down at your sides and touch your hair.
Hands up high as before,
Now clap your hands – one, two, three, four.

(Traditional, North America)

Two Little Hands

Two little hands go clap, clap, clap.
Two little feet go tap, tap, tap.
Two little hands go thump, thump, thump.
Two little feet go jump, jump, jump.
One little body turns around.
One little child sits quietly down.

(Traditional, North America)

The Bear Went Over the Mountain

The bear went over the mountain,
The bear went over the mountain,
The bear went over the mountain,
To see what he could see.
To see what he could see.
To see what he could see.
The other side of the mountain,
The other side of the mountain,
The other side of the mountain,
Was all that he could see.

(Traditional, United States)
Head and Shoulders

Head and shoulders,   Eyes and ears and mouth and nose,  
knees and toes,   Head and shoulders,  
knees and toes,  
Head and shoulders,   knees and toes,  
knees and toes,   knees and toes,  

(Traditional, United States)

Animal Poem

I’m a little kitty, I love to tippy toe.  
Won’t you do it with me? Ready now, let’s go.

I’m a little rabbit, I love to hop, hop, hop.  
Come on and do it with me. It’s fun; we’ll never stop.

I’m a great big elephant, I take big steps so slow.  
I’d love to have you join me. Ready now? Let’s go.

I’m a little dog, I love to run and run.  
If you would do it with me, we could have such fun.

(Pamela Conn Beall, United States, 1977)

Skip to My Lou

Skip, skip, to my Lou,  
Skip, skip, skip, to my Lou,  
Skip, skip, skip, to my Lou,  
Skip to my Lou, my darling.  
Lost my partner, what will I do?  
Lost my partner, what will I do?  
Lost my partner, what will I do?  
Skip to my Lou, my darling.  
Can’t get a red bird, a blue bird will do...  
Flies in the buttermilk, shoo, fly, shoo...

(Traditional, United States)
The Tiger Hunt

Going on a tiger hunt,
Gonna catch a big one.
(Hold arms out wide.)

I’m not scared.
(Point to self and shake head.)

Oh, Look!
(Shade eyes with hand, peering off in distance.)

There’s some ooey, gushy mud.
(Make squishy noises.)

Let’s go through.
(Curl fingers and move them up and down.)

Glump! Glump! Glump!
(More squishy noises.)

There’s some long, wavy grass.
(Make wavy grass motions with hands.)

Let’s go through.
(Part grass with hands.)

There’s a river –no bridge.
(Act startled.)

Let’s swim across.
(Make swimming motions.)

There’s a big tree.
(Arms up for tree.)

Let’s climb up and look.
(Make climbing motions, fist over fist.)

Oh, look, a great big cave.
(Circle hands over eyes to make binoculars.)

Let’s climb down and look!
(Motion downwards.)

We’re in the cave.
(Use soft, spooky voice.)

Everybody light a match,
(Scratch imaginary match.)

Oh, look!
(Act surprised.)

A big pair of yellow eyes.
(Startle and gasp.)

The tiger!!! Run!!!
(Retrace all actions very quickly back to the beginning. Finally, blow out the match and say, Phew!!)
(Traditional, Great Britain, North America)