

زيت زيت

(تحرك الأم أصبعها في باطن كف الطفل بحركة دائرية وهي تردد الأهزوجة)



Olive oil

Oil oil oh Hajjeh.

Put oil oh Hajjeh.

Add more oil to the pot.

So we can fry some kibbeh.

(Kibbeh: stuffed meat ball)

A child's hand is held with the palm open.

The parent then moves a finger circling the palm round and round while repeating the rhyme.)

Hanna

Hanna who is small

fell in a well

He got stung by wasps.

Poor Hanna

Poor Hanna

How did you fall in the well?

(The rhyme is accompanied by gentle pinches and tickles.)



My birdie

I had a little bird.

I looked after him,

and when his feathers grew and he was big,

he started to peck my cheeks.

Zik zik zik zik zeeek

(The child's cheeks are gently pinched.)



Fingers

This is uncle Abu Hatem (pinkie)

This is the ring wearer (ring finger)

This is Mr. Tall and useless (middle finger)

This is the labaneh licker (index finger)

This is the nit killer (thumb)

This is the Dinar holder (palm)

This is the bracelet wearer (wrist)

This is the basket hanger (elbow)

And this is the water jar holder (shoulder)

And this is.....

the little mouse nest (arm pit)

tickle..... tickle.... tickle



(The child's hand is held and each finger is gently pulled while the rhyme is recited – the palm is smoothed- the wrist is circled with fingers.

The elbow is touched (traditionally baskets were carried on the elbow). The shoulder is touched (traditionally water jars were carried on the shoulder). Fingers are walked up the child's arm to the arm pit where the child is tickled.)

Rabbit in the Cave

Rabbit in the cave is sleeping.

Rabbit in the cave is unhappy.

Poor rabbit does not know how to jump.

Jump Rabbit!

Rabbit! Jump!

Jump! Jump! Jump!

(The hands are held on the head like bunny ears. The hands are then put on the side of the head to imitate sleeping.

The child is then encouraged to jump! Jump! Jump! like the bunny.)



Ya Bah Ya Bah

Here is the one who brought the egg.

Here is the one who boiled it.

Here is the one who peeled it.

Here is the one who ate it,

and here is the one who said

“What about me? Where is my share?”

Tickle, tickle, tickle, tickle

(The child's palm is smoothed and some soothing words are repeated

Ya bah – ya bah is a baby word meaning nothing- empty.

Each finger is then gently pulled starting with the thumb.)



Ya Mneimneh ya mneimneh

Tickle tickle

Oh little seed

My teacher sent me

To buy a jar with onions

It fell and broke

Toot toot little one

Hide your hands in the box.

(The child's hands are placed palms down on the lap

The parent gently pinches the top of each hand

while reciting

the rhyme. At the end of the rhyme the child puts

his hands

behind his back.)



The Hajje's kibbeh

You are as small as a kibbeh.

As small as the Hajje's kibbeh,

Oh Hajjeh, give us some oil

so that we can fry (child's name) an omelette

(Hajje: old woman

Kibbeh: stuffed meat ball

The closed hand is moved from wrist up only, and side to side to show how small a baby is, like the size of a kibbeh.)



Hijjallah ya hijjallah

There is butter and honey in the earthen jar
(Baby's name) and I will eat from it.
And will throw everybody else out

(Hijj: means pilgrimage)

The child is seated in the lap facing the parent

The hands are held and the child is swayed back and forth while the rhyme is recited.)



This is the way

This is the way fish swim.

This is the way birds fly.

This is the way the wheel turns.

This is the way kids clap.

Clap! Clap! Clap! Clap!

Clap little hands!

(Each movement is mimicked by hands and arms.)



The Donkey

The big donkey said to the small baby donkey:

“if you do not obey your mother, there will be no hay for you.”

EEEEEEEEEEEE AAAAAAAAhh

EEEEEEEEEEEE AAAAAAAAhh

(Hand movements show big – by placing hand up high- and small –by placing hand down low- and when donkey bray is imitated hands go up to show donkey ears.)

