

Animal Antics brings to children an assortment of songs about animals and how they move. From the slow moving turtle to the quickly leaping rabbit; from the light and delicate butterfly to the heavy hippopotamus, children are challenged to explore a wide range of motion in an imaginative way.

Whether the songs are used for listening or as a catalyst for creative movement, children will be intrigued by the contrasts between the lively swinging monkeys and the mysterious cobra; the vibrating hummingbird and the loose and floppy doggy. Children can visualize and physically experience the herky jerky movements of chickens, the steady gait of the working horse, or the strength of the gorilla.

Children are encouraged to become actively involved with these songs. They can pantomime animals and perform the actions described in the lyric of the song or respond to the overall quality of an animal's movement and create their own ways of moving with the music. This may involve abstracting the movement quality of an animal and applying it to the human body. For example, a child may slowly crawl on hands and knees pantomiming a turtle in motion, or abstract the quality of slowness and apply it to the movement of isolated body parts such as the arms, shoulders, head, neck or spine. The quality of slowness may also be applied to some of the many ways we as humans can travel (walk, run, jump, hop, skip, gallop, slide), move in place (swing, shake, twist, turn, bend, stretch) and use space as we move (high, middle, low, front, back, side, curved, straight). The teacher or parent can encourage children to add variety to their movement by formulating questions and challenges based on this vocabulary. For example, children may be encouraged to more fully explore the quality of slowness by questions in the style of the following:

"Show me how a turtle moves slowly in a straightpath?"

"Can you move slowly in a curved path?"

"Can you find another way to move slowly besides crawling?"

"Who has another way?"

"Can you move just your hands slowly?"

"What other part of your body can you move slowly?"

"Can you move backwards slowly without bumping into anything?" "Turtles move slowly at a very low level." "Can you keep the same quality of slowness and move at a high level?"

Children may also be actively involved even when they choose to listen to a song without moving. Music and lyric can stimulate the formation of mental images. The teacher can encourage further use of imagination by asking questions such as:

"How do you think the rabbit felt when he was being chased by the fox?"

"What did he do when he arrived safely in his hole? What happened next?"

"When you picture the river the hippo swims in, what other animals do you see? How wide is the river? How long? What does the river bank look like?"

"What do you think people did when the cobra suddenly struck?"

"What did the snake charmer do? Why do you think the cobra slithered back in its' basket?"

"What color do you imagine the kitty cat to be? What color is the ball? the yarn? Can you think of a way the mouse might have escaped from the cat?"

Questions like these can also be used to stimulate creativity in story telling, drawing, and painting. Through activities based on animal imagery, children experience the full range of movement unique to humans. In the guide that follows, the movement qualities, action words and lyrics for each song are included.

1. MONKEYS

Movement Qualities: quick, lively, playful.

Action Words: Swing, sail, scat, scramble, scritch, scratch, jump, bounce, screech, tumble down, whirl, spin.

Lyric:

*Monkeys like to move in a lively sort of way
See their furry bodies flyin' out to play
Merry little bundles tumble through the grass
With acrobatic antics sure to make you laugh*

*They swing and sail out through the trees
Then grab the nearest branch with ease*

*They scat and scramble on all fours
With hands and feet a lot like yours*

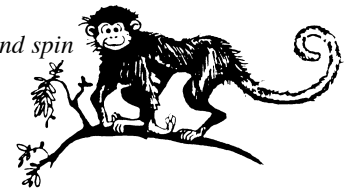
*They scritch and scratch and jump around
Bounce and screech and tumble down*

Repeat Chorus

*They groom and comb each others hair
A friendly way to show they care*

*They swing their long arms whirl and spin
Stop and flash a big wide grin*

Repeat Chorus



2. HIPPO IS HEAVY

Movement Qualities: big, heavy.

Action Words: walk, plop down, chomp, run, swim, sit, trundle, tromp.

Lyric:

*Hippo is heavy he makes big dents in the mud
Hippo is heavy he plops down to rest with a thud*

*He looks kind of funny and clumsy
As he chomps on shrubs and trees
But hippopotamus can run as fast as us
And he swims down the river with ease*

*Hippo is heavy, he weighs two tons at least
Hippo is heavy, a big amphibious beast*

*He hides from the heat of the African sun
By sitting in the river like a rock
He trundles out when the sun goes down
Tromping off for an evening walk*

*Hippo is heavy, he makes big dents in the mud
Hippo is heavy, he plops down to rest with a thud*

3. HUMMINGBIRD

Movement Qualities: quick, swift, vibrating, shimmering.

Action Words: beat wings, hover, quiver, dart, drink nectar.

Lyric:

*Hummingbird, quickly beating wings are singing
Hummingbird, melody just keeps repeating
Hummingbird, vibrating pulsating
Hummingbird, shimmering glimmering
Hummingbird, hovering then quickly darting
Hummingbird, quivering then swiftly parting
Hummingbird, vibrating pulsating
Hummingbird, shimmering glimmering*

*Tiny brightly colored bird
Long and slender bill
Feeds on nectar from the bloom
Wings are never still*

*Hummingbird, quickly beating wings are singing
Hummingbird, melody just keeps repeating
Hummingbird, vibrating pulsating
Hummingbird, shimmering glimmering*



4. FLOPPY DOGGY

Movement Qualities: floppy, loose, playful.

Action Words: frolic, tumble down, roll around, chew, curl up, holler, bounce, dodge

Lyric:

*I'm a floppy doggy and I frolic all about
And when I'm tired I tumble down and let my tongue hang out
I roll around and tease the cats and chew the children's shoes
And when I'm feelin' sleepy I curl up and take a snooze*

*Oh a doggys got it made in the shade
No other life could make me trade
I really don't do anything and get the best
of everything
A doggys got it made in the shade*

*At night I love to lope along and holler at the moon
Aaaaoo Aaaaao Isn't that a lovely tune?*

*I bounce around and dodge the sticks and stones
that people throw*

Aaaaao, Aaaaao It's the sweetest song I know.

*Oh a doggys got it made in the shade
No other life could make me trade
I really don't do anything and get the best of everything
A doggys got it made in, doggys got it made in,
A doggys got it made in the shade*

5. RABBIT MOVES FAST

Movement Qualities: fast, sudden, bursting, frightened.

Action Words: run, dive, leap, zig zag, bounce, scramble, hop, peek out, jerk back.

Lyric:

*Jack Jack rabbit moves fast
Off like a shot with a burst of speed
Jack Jack rabbit moves fast
Cotton tail flickers up over those weeds
Jack Jack rabbit moves fast
Divin' through the grass and leaping over logs
Jack Jack rabbit moves fast
Tryin' to get away from the hunters dogs*

*Leaps ten feet when he's filled with fright
He's no fool out lookin' for a fight
Zig to the left and he zag to the right*

*Jack Jack rabbit moves fast
Bouncin' over brambles and scramblin' past
Jack Jack rabbit moves fast
Hoppin' in his hole and he's home at last
Then he peeks out. . . It's quiet. . .*

*He hops out for some fun in the field
A twig snaps. . . He jerks back. . .
The fox is on the prowl and lookin' for a meal!*

*Jack Jack rabbit moves fast
Off like a shot with a burst of speed
Jack Jack rabbit moves fast
Cotton tail flickers up over those weeds
Jack Jack rabbit moves fast
Tearin' down the road and flyin' over rocks
Jack Jack rabbit moves fast
Tryin' to get away from the crafty fax*

*Leaps ten feet when he s filled with fright
He's no fool out lookin' for a fight
Zig to the left and he zag to the right*

*Jack Jack rabbit moves fast
Bouncin' over brambles and scramblin' past
Jack Jack rabbit moves fast
Hoppin' in his hole and he's home at last
Hoppin' in his hole and he's home at last*

6. THE TURTLE

Movement Qualities: slow, interminable.

Action Words: crawl, walk, shrink into shell.

Lyric:

*The turtle moves terribly slowly
Never in much of a hurry
He's in no rush to get home at night
'Cause home is night
There on his back
And that's...why*

*The turtle moves terrible slowly
Never in much of a hurry*

*He takes forever wherever he goes
But everyone knows
He will survive*

It just takes a little more time to arrive

7. CHICKENS

Movement Qualities: quick, funny, herky, jerky, frantic.

Action Words: scritch, scratch, squawk, scuffle, tap, snip, snap, peck, flap and flip feathers, run, screech, cluck, grab, roost, sleep.

Lyric:

*Chickens have a quick and funny way of movin'
A herky jerky way of doin' what they're doin'*

*Go to feed 'em grain and seed and
See them scritch, scratching, squawking*

Scuffling for a share

Madly tapping, snipping, snapping

Pecking the pan bare

*Chickens have a quick and funny way of movin'
A herky jerky way of doin' what they're doin'*

*Go to fetch 'em try to catch 'em
They're flapping wings and flipping feathers*

Running with a screech

Clucking, gabbing as you're grabbing

Flying out of reach

But when night falls chickens fold their feathers

Roost in rows so still together

Sleeping soundly there they stay

'Til rooster crows at break of day

*Chickens have a quick and funny way of movin'
A herky jerky way of doin' what they're doin'*

*Go to feed 'em grain and seed and
See them scritch, scratching, squawking*

Scuffling for a share

Madly tapping, snipping, snapping

Pecking the pan bare

*Chickens have a quick and funny way of movin'
A herky jerky way of doin' what they're doin'*

Chickens have a quick and funny way of movin'

8. COBRA

Movement Qualities: undulating, supple, smooth, mysterious, sudden.

Action Words: undulate, rise, ripple, writhe, sway, curve, circle, strike, slither, curl.

Lyric:

*The snake undulates from a basket
To the strains of a haunting melody
The charmer plays a flute as cobra dances
For a coin or two from those who stop to see*

*The cobra rises rippling and writhing
Like some silent mystery he grows*

*With supple spine he slowly sways and circles
In smooth and curving waves his body flows*

*The snake is fascinating, one people fear yet like
They move a little closer and cobra suddenly strikes!
Hsssssss!*

*The snake slithers back in its basket
To the strains of a haunting melody
Perhaps he's feeling safer curled in darkness
His secrets still unknown to you and me*

9. BUTTERFLY

Movement Qualities: soft, light, gliding, darting.

Action Words: fly, land, sip nectar, flit away, glide, dart, beat wings softly.

Lyric:

*Butterfly lands lightly on a flower
And celebrates the beauty of the day
She sips the liquid nectar flower gives to her
Then softly as a dream she flits away*

*Sunlight glistens when she's gliding thru the air
Colors flash as she darts up and down
As you watch a gentle hush surrounds the scene
You strain to hear but soft wings make no sound*

*Silver Blue, Buckeye, Queen, Pearly Eye or Purple Flame
Morning Cloak or Monarch, beauty is her name*

*Butterfly lands lightly on a flower
And celebrates the beauty of the day
She sips the liquid nectar flower gives to her
Then softly as a dream she flits away*



10. DON'T MESS WITH GORILLA

Movement Qualities: strong, big, heavy, gentle.

Action Words: bend, bash, lie down, roar, shake, beat chest

Lyric:

*Don't mess with gorilla and he won't mess with you
Don't mess with gorilla and he won't mess with you*

*He don't like hunters coming after him
And shooting those guns around
He'll bend that barrel with his big bare hands
And bash it in pieces on the ground*

*Don't mess with gorilla and he won't mess with you
Don't mess with gorilla and he won't mess with you*

*He lays in the sun while the babies play
He's shy and gentle at heart
But when he's wounded he can roar and shake
And tear a man apart*

*Don't mess with gorilla and he won't mess with you
Don't mess with gorilla and he won't mess with you
He packs a half ton of power in a six foot frame
With thighs the size of a tree
He beats his chest like a big bass drum
A frightening sight to see*

*Don't mess with gorilla and he won't mess with you
Don't mess with gorilla and he won't mess with you*

11. CLIP CLIP CLOP

Movement Qualities: regular, even, plodding, steady, contrasted with irregular, wild, rebellious, tree

Action Words: bow head, plug along, pull wagon, start, stop, twist, jump.

Lyric:

*Just saddle me up and have a seat
Clip clip clop like a clock
For an easy ride with an even beat
Clip clip clop like a clock
I bow my head and plug along
Clip clip clop like a clock
My hoofs keep time as I sing this song
Clip clip clop like a clock*

*I once was a mustang wild and free
I chased the clouds away
I roamed the range and raced the wind
But that was yesterday*

*With a steady gait I work all day
Clip clip clop like a clock*

*I do it all for a chunk of hay
Clip clip clop like a clock*

*I pull the wagon filled with feed
And take the kids on rides
And when I'm done they fence me up
And leave me locked inside*

*But late at night when the moon shines bright
And there's no humans trying to harness me
I kick up my shoes and shake the blues
And make believe I'm free
I start, stop, twist and jump
Do the boogie woogie and the Texas stomp
It's a hot time tonight in the old cow town
Ain't no one gonna keep me down*

*When daylight breaks it's the same of course
Clip clip clop like a clock
Just a common horse from the working force
Clip clip clop like a clock
Clip clip clop like a clock*

12. MY KITTY CAT

Movement Qualities: playful, quick, agile, silent, swift, predatory

Action Words: sleep, wake, stretch, leap, twist, turn, land, scurry, sharpen claws, tangle yarn, jingle bells, stand, spring, pounce .

Lyric:

*My Kitty cat lies asleep in my lap
Curled up and purring no worries has she
Furry and soft I love stroking her back
Soon she will wake, stretch and come play with me*

*Leaping high she twists and turns
Softly lands on padded paws
Scurries to her scratching tree
To sharpen up her curving claws
With green and golden eyes aglow
My feline casts her magic spell
Tangles up the yarn I dangle
Jingle jangles jingle bells*

*La la la la—la la, la la la la—la la
My Kitty cat
La la la la—la la, la la la la—la la
My Kitty cat plays with me*

*Like a statue she will stand
Stare at me then quickly spring
Bat and grab a fuzzy ball
That I'm swinging on a string
Motionless she will wait,
Hoping for a careless mouse
Silently and swiftly pounce
Drag her treasure through the house*

*La la la la—la la, la la la la—la la
My Kitty cat
La la la la—la la, la la la la—la la
My Kitty cat plays with me*



Hap Palmer conducts workshops and gives concerts throughout the nation as well as teachers courses for the Education Extension of the University of California at Los Angeles. He also teaches music and movement grades K-3 for the Los Angeles City schools and leads tap dance and aerobic exercise classes for the Recreational Instruction Program at the University of California at Los Angeles, and the Santa Monica YMCA. He received his M.A. in Dance Education from the University of California at Los Angeles.

He began as a music teacher, playing guitar and leading students in singing folk songs. Noting the tremendous physical energy of children and their desire to move and use their bodies, he began writing songs that involve not only singing, but moving, learning basic skills, and the use of imagination as well. His recordings contain a wide assortment of activities and are varied in approach from specific task to problem solving, to dramatic play and creative movement. Hap has written and recorded over 200 songs for children, writing music and lyrics, creating activities, producing, playing and singing.

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