

Pattycake and Peekaboo
Why are They so Important?
Kathleen Ross, MS, SLP, ECE

Pattycake, pattycake
Baker's man!
Bake me a cake
As fast as you can

Roll it and pat it
And mark it with a B
Put it in the oven
For Baby and me.

Sit face-to-face with a child on your lap, rhythmically clap hands together with each other while reciting the above traditional nursery rhyme. Why do this?

- Creates a sense of joy, warmth and comfort
- It is a shared social activity of clapping, reciting, and playing.
- Back and forth turn-taking happens.
- Eye contact and full attention can be gained.
- Imitation happens.
- It's rhythmic, repetitive, and predictable.
- Rhyming is an early literacy skill.



Peekaboo! I see you!

Hide behind a chair, a cloth or another obstacle and pop out unexpectedly again-and-again. Why do this?

- It is a shared social activity, creating a sense of joy and belonging.
- Through repetition, it becomes predictable.
- Changing the roles of hider and seeker encourages turn-taking.
- With full attention to the activity, eye contact can be gained.
- Encourages a first easy word or phrase to say, *Peek*, *Boo* or *Peekaboo*.
- Through finding someone, we instill early problem solving.
- Children learn object permanence. Though they can't see you immediately, they know you're still with them!

