

THE PLAYTIME PRIMER

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The Playtime Primer by Catherine T. Bryce

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CATHERINE T. BRYCE

**THE PLAYTIME
PRIMER**

An illustration at the top of the cover shows several children gathered around a large, unrolled scroll. One child is pointing at the scroll, while others look on with interest. The scene is rendered in a simple, line-art style with some red shading.

THE
PLAYTIME
PRIMER

An illustration of a young child climbing a tall, thin, vertical tree trunk. The child is positioned in the center of the cover, between the title and the author information.

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NEWTON
MASSACHUSETTS

With ILLUSTRATIONS
BY
MARGARET ELY WEBB

NEW YORK

A small, simple illustration of a dog sitting down, positioned to the left of the publisher's name.

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NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

ALL children enjoy rhyme games — enjoy singing while they play. This little book attempts to carry the joy of singing and playing over into reading.

The rhymes and games here given are the old familiar ones that have come down through many generations of many peoples. Their history accounts for the many variants that most of them have. In this little primer, the old English variant has been given except in a few cases where it seemed better to make some slight change in the words.

The pupils first sing and play the game; then they read the words of the rhyme from the book, learning any new words; finally they read the lessons following the rhyme.

For the benefit of teachers to whom any of these rhymes and games may be unfamiliar, the music of the rhymes is here given, also a few definite suggestions regarding the playing of each game.

TAG (p. 3)

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 8/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first stanza: "O who will play a game of tag? Tag! tag! tag! tag! O". The second staff contains the melody for the second stanza: "who will play a game of tag With me to - day?". Both staves use a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

O who will play a game of tag? Tag! tag! tag! tag! O

who will play a game of tag With me to - day?

To play this game, the children stand in two rows facing each other, and about the length of their arms apart. One row sings the first stanza. As they sing "Tag! tag! tag! tag!" they try to tag the children in the opposite row. They may bend as far as they can *without lifting their feet from the floor*. The children in the opposite row may bend as they please to evade being tagged *without lifting their feet from the floor*. To take one step forward or one step backward puts one out of the game. Those who are tagged retire from the game. The second stanza is sung by the other row, who in turn try to tag the children in the first row. The point of the game is to see which side can tag the greater number.

THE COBBLER (p. 6)

The music for this rhyme is the same as the music for *Tag* (p. vi). The game is much like the game of tag. One row of children sings the first stanza, sounding the "Rap! tap! rap! tap!" with toe and heel and pointing to their boots as they sing "this pair of boots." The other row sings the second verse, each pointing at the boots of the child standing opposite as he sings, "that pair of boots."

THE HORN (p. 9)

The music for this game is the same as the music for *Tag* (p. vi). Again the two rows of children stand face to face. One row sings the first stanza, the other row, the second stanza. As they sing, "Toot! toot! toot! toot!" the children pretend to blow horns.

The three rhymes may be sung at one time as different parts of the same game.



RING-A-ROSY (p. 15)



Ring a round a ro - sy, Pock - et full of
po - sy, Lad - dies, lad - dies, all fall down.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

All the necessary directions are given in the reading lesson following the rhyme.

