

# Nursery Rhyme Gesture Games

— Nancy Blanning

## Margery Mutton-Pie and Johnny Bo-Peep

Margery Mutton-pie  
And Johnny Bo-peep,  
They met together in Gracechurch Street;  
In and out,

In and out,  
Over the way.  
Oh! says Johnny, 'tis chop-nose day.

*Gesture one thumb for Margery  
Gesture one thumb for Johnny  
Thumbs come together and touch  
Right thumb tucks into fist of right hand on "in," then  
peeps out.  
Repeat with left thumb  
Arms cross over center of body  
Cross wrists in chopping gesture, point to nose, stamp  
foot or clap on "day."*



## A Duck and a Drake

A duck and a drake

And a nice barley cake  
And a penny to pay the old baker.

A hop

And a scotch

Is another  
Notch  
And a slitherum  
Slatherum  
Take her.

*Gesture duck wings by tucking hands up into armpits.  
With preschoolers, "flap" wings symmetrically on  
"duck" and "drake." With older children, "flap" right  
arm with "duck" and left arm with "drake."*

*Hands forward & cupped to suggest a cake  
Reach with right hand into cupped left hand and then  
reach out forward in giving gesture as though giving  
the penny to the baker.*

*Right hand reaches across to touch on left elbow and  
stays there*

*Left hand reaches across and touches right elbow; arms  
now crossed over center of the body*

*Right hand now touches left shoulder*

*Left hand moved to right shoulder*

*Right hand glides down left arm*

*Left hand glides down right arm*

*Arms extended away from chest, wrists crossed with  
right arm on top, palms held together, fingers in-  
terlocked. Then twist hands downward and inward  
toward your chest, ending with forearms parallel to  
your chest, forearms crossed, hands still intertwined,  
so forearms and hands are twisted "pretzel-style."*

**Note:** *The crossing and twisting gestures are intended for six-year-olds/rising first graders who need some challenge.*