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.

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.