A too-vigorous moment during clean up time turned into a head-bump and loud tears. The teacher quietly
moved to the distressed child and settled herself and him to sit on the floor. Calmly and comfortably stroking
his head, she sang this song. The whole room quieted as the other children stopped to listen as well.
When the song had finished the laughter refrain, the tears were gone and smiles again prevailed. Without in-
struction, the teachers began again to clean up. The children followed, many now unconsciously singing the
“laughter.” Thanks to Jill McCormick and her mixed-age Santa Fe kindergarten for sharing this experience.

Time for Laughter
～ Jill McCormick

A man fell into a well, I did hear him plop in. I believed a
big man fell, but ’twas a little bumpkin. I threw in a pail to him,
He climbed right into it. I pulled up the pail and then,
He was lying in it. Swing-ing, sway-ing back and forth, ris-ing up and
close in. Had it yet been colder then He would have been frozen.
Tom and Tim and little Jack, what are you all after?
Dry your tears, it’s over now! Now is the time for laughter.
Ha ha ha ha Ho ho ho, Hee hee-hee, hee hee, Hee hee! Ha ha ha ha
Ho ho ho, Hee hee-hee hee hee Hee, hee!