

# A Spring Circle: The Honeybees' Waggle Dance

The honeybees are buzzing their song on this fine day.  
They are looking for a new home. How will they find  
their way?

The woodpecker bird is pecking a hole in the tree.  
This will make a fine home for the bees.

He hears the buzz, buzz, buzzing of the bees' song.  
He says, "I will peck, peck, peck and help you along."  
Into the cozy hollow of the tree goes the swarming  
family of bees.

They buzz, "Thank you, dear woodpecker, for our new  
home in the tree."

## SONG

*G D' G G D*  
Buzz, buzz, zoom zoom zee

*G G A A B G B A*  
We will make a home in the tree

*G D' G G D*  
Buzz, buzz, zoom zoom zee

*D D D' G-G G G*  
We will make honey so sweet.

*Make buzzing sound*

*Stand on chair. Left hand up, right hand shaped like  
beak—make pecking motion*

*Crawling under table*

**About the musical notation:** *C, D, E and so on represent middle C and the notes in the octave just above. C', D', E' etc. are notes in the next octave above that. Songs may be sung in a free rhythm, one note per syllable, unless indicated otherwise.*

*Clap lightly in rhythm: Center, center, left-right-left.*

*Encircling gesture with arms*

*Repeat movements of first line*

*Gesture of tasting honey*

A golden palace of rooms the bees will make for each other.  
In the hollow tree they hang on to one another.  
Each bee holds on to a sister or a brother,  
As they build their house together.

*All reach out and rub each others' backs while sitting down in a circle*

Under their tummies the bees have little pockets of wax so fine.  
They chew the wax, then build with it a room in a wonderful design.  
They build with their feet, knees, backs, heads, and their wings,  
Scraping and smoothing the golden walls of the palace as they buzz and sing:

*Reach under tummy*

*Hand to mouth, pretend to chew*

*Touch ground with designated body parts*

### **REPEAT SONG**

Now, the golden palace is the honeycomb where the honey shall be stored,  
All the way from the roof so high, way down to the floor.  
In the golden rooms the baby bees will abide.  
The royal queen bee is the mother to the baby bees;  
In the golden rooms, they lay side by side.

*Reach up on toes then down to floor*

*Gesture of beds side by side*

*Sing "Rock-a-bye Baby Bees" to the tune of "Rock-a-bye Baby." Rock to rhythm of song by holding knees and rocking onto back, then sitting back up.*

Then out of the palace the scout bees fly,  
In bigger and bigger circles they go around outside.  
They look for flowers in meadows, orchards, and gardens all around,  
Then bring back to the palace a taste of all that they've found.

*Lead a spiral, all holding hands*

*Children look around room*

*Children bring back "nectar" to the circle*

With their antennae, the family of bees tastes the nectar from the flowers.  
The scout bees have looked for them for hours and hours.  
The scout bee does the Waggle Dance to show the bees the way to go;  
She sometimes turns fast and sometimes very slow.

*Pretend tasting*

*To waggle: feet together, moving sideways, alternate moving toes, then heels in the direction indicated and repeat.*

The scout bee turns first to the left  
Waggle and waggle showing the way  
Waggle and waggle to the right  
The scout bee points to where the flower treasure is glowing in sunlight.

*Waggle and move to the left, then right.*

*Point with "antennae," indicating direction*

The bees each eat a bit of honey so they can travel fast  
To the place where the flowers are—at last!  
They suck up the nectar, the juice of the flower.  
They fill up with nectar for hours and hours.

#### REPEAT SONG

Then they roll around and around in the flower bed.  
They pick up golden pollen dust—it sticks on them  
from foot to head,  
Then they put it their pollen baskets that they carry on  
their legs  
And share it with other flowers as they fly from place  
to place.

The bees bring back to the golden palace all they have  
found;  
A bee line they do make back home to keep it safe and  
sound.  
Nectar is made into honey after it arrives.  
It is stored in the golden rooms in the palace of the  
beehive.

#### REPEAT SONG

The bee's antennae reach out and touch each other—  
This is how they talk to their sisters and brothers.  
Then they eat pollen bee bread and sweet nectar tea.  
Here is some for you and some for me.

We say “Thank you, dear bees, for all the work that  
you do,  
For the beeswax we play with, and beeswax candles  
that shine, too,  
For the gift of your honey that we put into our tea,  
So sweet and good, for you and for me.”

Now we shall lie down to rest  
After our adventure with the honeybees.  
It has been one of the very, very best.

*Hand to mouth*

*Hands open like blossom, “sucking” as one would  
through a straw*

*Lie on floor and roll around on back  
Hands touch from feet up to head*

*Indicate filling baskets on legs*

*Elbows on sides of body, arms out like short wings,  
fluttering*

*Children in a line following one another, flying back to  
the hive*

*Flying around room back to hive*

*Gesture of putting honey into rooms*

*Arms above head, children gently touch one another  
Gesture of eating and drinking*

*Point to others, then self*

*Give each child a taste of honey on their pointer finger*

*Lie down to rest with glockenspiel or lyre*

#### Note

*This circle was inspired by a story in Arthur Auer's  
book, Learning About the World Through Modeling  
(AWSNA, 2001).*

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