

The Three Little Pigs: An Introduction

~ Laurie Clark

This story is a fairytale from England. It reflects the process of building up the physical body of the young child, in this case, building a “house” (the body). Playing the game of making houses for the young child is a recapitulation of the individuality incarnating into the body. Children love to play “building houses,” covering various objects with materials that they can fit into and make a “home.” Playstands, tents, material over chairs, pieces of wood and whatever objects are available are used over and over again to build, take down and rebuild “houses.”

I think of the wolf in this case as being the childhood illness or fever that tries to “blow the house in.” Each time children go through a fever process, they come out of it gaining more of their own individuality and

are a little bit different after each illness. An illness that has been taken in and then overcome, especially if a child has had the opportunity to work through the fever without much intervention, but also with caution and sensitivity, is of great benefit to the young child.

It makes sense that there would be three different characters, pigs in this case, that one after the other build a sturdier house than the one before. This happens three times and each time the “house” (the body) is more resilient after it is rebuilt (overcoming the illness) again from a stronger material: from straw to sticks and finally heavy, sturdy bricks.

It is interesting that the third time the wolf comes, he goes down the chimney over the fireplace into the pot of boiling water

(the heat of the fever) and the little pig finally moves into his sturdy brick “house” that cannot be blown in through overcoming and outwitting the wolf. Perhaps the end, when the little pig eats the wolf instead of the wolf eating him, can be thought of as the ultimate digestion and re-configuration of the inherited body weaving itself into its own individuality.

Children delight in this story and love the repetitions in the storyline. There are also several opportunities for integrative, health-giving movement, including crawling, the log roll, large and small motor movements, vestibular movement (rocking backward and forward, jumping off chairs, etc.) and proprioceptive movement (jumping, clapping, slapping, and so on).

The Three Little Pigs

A Circle Adventure Based on the Traditional Fairy Tale

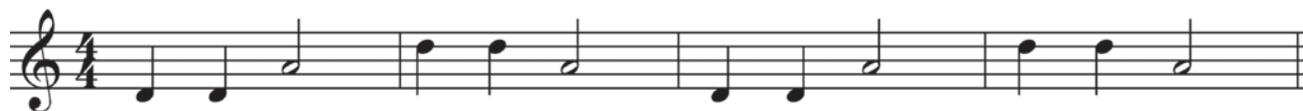
Composed by Laurie Clark

There was an old sow that had three little pigs she could no longer keep. She sent them out into the world, their fortunes to seek. The first little pig sang a song as he made his way. What would he find to make his house this day?

Lead children in and out of spiral

Here I Go

Sylvia Nordoff



Here I go, to and fro, walk - ing fast, walk - ing slow.

You can substitute running, hopping, tiptoeing, skipping, jumping

He met a man with a bundle of straw and said
 "Please, man, give me that bundle
 to build me a house so fine.
 It shall be a house of a most wonderful design."

*Gesture of arms around 'bundle'
 Arms in front, palms up*

Make a triangle roof shape above head

I Will Build A House

Laurie Clark

I will build a house and make it good,
 make it good like a lit - tle pig should.

After singing "I Will Build A House," start from floor level, slowly moving up. Place palms of hands alternately on top of one another as if building a house. End the movement by making a roof/triangle shape above head.

Glockenspiel can be played from low to high tones to accompany the movements.

He built his house of straw the best he could.
 Just like a little piggy should.

There came a wolf. He heard the pig's song,
 He came and this is what he said as he crept along,
 "Little pig, little pig, let me in."
 "No, no, no, not by the hair of my chinny chin chin."

Crawling and sniffing

Repeat a few times

Sit down, put hands around mouth

Right then left hand alternately touch chin

"Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house in."

Blow with hands around mouth on "huff" and "puff"

Sit together in circle holding hands, rocking upper body forward and backward a few times

So he huffed and he puffed, and he blew the house in.

Repeat "huffed and puffed" a few times

When the wolf comes creeping along, that
 is the end of the little pig's song.

The second little pig sang a song as he made his way,
 What would he find to make his house this day?

Song: Here I Go

He met a man with a bundle of sticks and said,
 "Please, man, give me that bundle
 to build me a house so fine.
 It shall be a most wonderful design."

*Gesture of arms around bundle,
 arms in front, palms up*

Make a triangle roof shape above head

Song: I Will Build A House

After singing song, fingers (representing sticks) of left and right hand criss-cross alternately starting at floor level slowly going up until reaching above head for a roof in a triangle shape—glockenspiel can be played from low to high tones or hum tones.

He built his house of straw the best he could.
Just like a little piggy should.

There came a wolf. He heard the pig's song,
He came and this is what he said as he crept along,

*Crawling and sniffing
Repeat a few times*

Sit down in circle

"Little pig, little pig, let me in."
"No, no, not by the hair of my chinny chin chin."
"Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house in."

*Hands around mouth
Right then left hand alternately touch chin
Hands around mouth, blow on "huff" and "puff"*

Sit together in a circle holding hands rocking upper body forward and backward a few times

So he huffed and he puffed, and he blew the house in.

When the wolf comes creeping along, that
is the end of the little pig's song.

The third little pig sang a song as he made his way.
What would he find to make his house this day?

Song: Here I Go

He met a man with a load of bricks and said,
"Please, man, give me the bricks
to build a house so fine.
It shall be a most wonderful design."

*Arms up in gesture of carrying a heavy load

Make a triangle shape above head*

After singing song, alternately place right fist on top of left fist from floor level slowly going up until reaching above head in a triangle roof shape—glockenspiel can accompany from lower to upper tones.

He built his house of bricks the best he could.
Just like a little piggy should.

There came a wolf. He heard the pig's song.
He came and this is what he said as he crept along.

Crawling and sniffing, repeat a few times

"Little pig, little pig, let me in."
"No, no, not by the hair of my chinny chin chin."
"Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house in."

*Hands around mouth
Right then left hand alternately touch chin*

So he huffed and he puffed, and
he huffed and he puffed
But he could not blow the house in.

*Hands around mouth, blow on "huff" and "puff"

Shake head in "no" gesture*

The wolf said, “Mr. Smith’s field has turnips,
Be ready by six.”
But the pig went at five and
Pulled the turnips,
He knew the old wolf’s tricks.

*Hold up 6 fingers
Hold up five fingers
Pulling gesture*

The wolf said, “Down at Merry Garden there are
fine apples to pick on a tree, be ready at five.”
The little pig knew what he had to do to stay alive.

Hold up 5 fingers

The pig went at four and climbed and climbed
the tree to get the apples as fine as could be.

Children stand on their chairs

Along came the wolf and asked the
pig if the apples were good.
The pig threw the apple so far and then jumped
down and ran home as fast as he could.

*Throwing gesture
Jump down and run back to circle*

The wolf said, “I will take you to the fair
at Shanklin. Be ready at three.”

Hold up 3 fingers

The pig went to the fair and bought a butter churn
when the wolf came looking hungry as could be.
The pig got inside the churn and rolled and
rolled down the hill, rolled and rolled...

*Starting at feet bring arms up along sides of
body above head as if getting into churn*

*Do developmental exercise—the log roll—lying down on back with arms straight
down by the sides of the body, child rolls onto tummy and then onto back repeatedly
until reaching his destination. One or two children do this at a time on a rug or
soft surface—then children jump three times before sitting back down in circle.*

It frightened the wolf and he ran home and when
he went to the pig’s house, this is what he told.
“A great round thing came down
the hill and frightened me.”
The pig answered, “Ha, it was me
inside the churn you see.”
The wolf was angry and climbed up the roof, And
down the chimney. The pig he would now eat.
But the pig put boiling water on the fire
and in fell the wolf. The lid went on, the
pig is the one that had the treat!
The little pig lay down to take a rest
In his house of brick, which was the very best.

Hands roll around each other

Point to self

*Pointer and middle fingers on right hand
'climb' up left arm to the top of the head*

Right hand claps left hand when lid goes on

*Children lay down to rest with
lyre, singing or glockenspiel*

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