

Little Recitations With Actions.

Three Pretty Young Mice.

¹ Three pretty young mice once lived in a ² hole,
The hole was their nice, cozy home,
Their names, I must tell you, were ³ Pip, Pep, and Pop,
And one day ⁴ away they did roam.

"Let's go to the pantry," said Pop, "it is there
They keep all the bacon and cheese;
Ah! now we are here, let's ⁵ peep in this jar,
There's ⁶ sure to be something to please."

So ⁷ up they all climbed and ⁸ in they all peeped,
And saw the ⁹ jar full of flour;
Then ¹⁰ over went Pop, with a ¹¹ flip and a ¹² flop,
And ¹³ tried to get out for an hour.

And then little Pip said, "We must get him out,
¹⁴ I'll go down ¹⁵ tail first, and ¹⁶ hold fast
To the rim of the jar, with my little front paws—
Now, Pop, I have ¹⁷ reached you at last!

¹⁸ "Hold fast to my tail, you poor brother mine,
And, Pep, you will give us a ¹⁹ pull!
Then soon we'll be safe, and ²⁰ off we'll run home,
For Pop's ²¹ fur of flour is quite full."

So off to their ²² hole ran the ²³ three little mice,
And ate all the flour, safe and glad,
But ²⁴ never again to that jar went poor Pop,
For he thought of the ²⁵ fall he had had.

—Recitations With Actions.

(1) Hold up three fingers. (2) Join thumb and forefinger of right hand. (3) Show first three fingers, one after the other. (4) Send out right arm. (5) Same as 2, with both hands, and peep through the holes. (6) Fold arms. (7) Raise hands slowly, moving fingers all the time. (8) Shade eyes with hands. (9) Bend fingers and place hands together. (10) Make a bounding movement with hands. (11) Shake hands from wrist. (12) Hands on table suddenly. (13) Hands out in front, move fingers. (14) Point to self. (15) Point down. (16) Raise hands and imitate holding. (17) Clap once. (18) Hands closed and held out, one fist above the other. (19) Jerk hands downwards. (20) Same as 4. (21) Touch dress. (22) Same as 2. (23) Same as 1. (24) Shake head slowly. (25) Drop arms suddenly.

Rest Exercise.

(This is to be read by the teacher to the youngest children who are to follow directions. It is a pleasant way of securing attention and teaching beginners to work together and to obey promptly.)

All may stand up in the aisle,
Make good straight lines for a little while

Hands on hips, hands on knees,
Put them behind you, if you please.

Touch your shoulders, now your nose,
Touch your ears, and now your toes.

Raise your arms high up in the air,
Down at your sides, now touch your hair.

Hands at sides now you may place;
Touch your elbows, and now your face.

Raise hands up high as before,
Now you may clap—one, two, three, four.

Now sit down, hands folded once more,
Eyes to the front, feet on the floor.

The Three Little Fishes.

¹ Three little fishes lived down in the sea,
As blithe and as happy as fishes could be;
At night they slept soundly in one little bed,
² Then up in the morning when darkness had fled;
³ They could not rise sooner, for, betwixt you and me,
They do not burn candles far down in the sea.

These three little fishes liked nothing but fun,
⁴ And swam about wildly till daylight was done;
⁵ They knew not their letters, A, B, C, and D,
⁶ They could not count twenty, nor spell M E;
Their kind mother wanted to teach them to read,
⁷ But listen they would not, nor pay any heed.

And as they grew bigger more silly grew they,
Still caring for nothing but frolic and play;
⁸ They laughed and they scampered and stood on their tails,
⁹ And pelted each other with dead fishes' scales.
One day as they frolicked up came a great whale,
¹⁰ And these three silly fishes got under its tail.

¹¹ Their wise little playmates swam quickly away,
But these silly fishes went on with their play;
¹² They climbed on its shoulders and over its head,
¹³ And tickled its nostrils without any dread;
They laughed and they shouted, like boys in a boat,
¹⁴ Till the whale gave a snap, and they slipped down its throat.

—Recitations With Actions.

(1) Imitate the action of swimming with the hands. (2) Hands in position and set upright. (3) Point with the finger and shake the head as if telling something very serious. (4) Repeat the action of No. 1. (5) Shake the head and look very sorrowful. (6) Look very much surprised. (7) Raise the hand as if to draw attention and nod the head. (8) Imitate the action of smiling. Raise the hands and point them downwards. (9) Raise the hands, droop them and shake them. (10) Raise the left arm droop the hand, and pass the right hand under it. (11) Imitate action of swimming with hands. (12) Bring hands gently up from the shoulders to the top of the head. (13) Tickle nostrils. (14) Open the mouth and point to it with the finger while the action of swallowing is imitated.

Where Have You Been, Little Maid?

¹ "Where have you been, little maid?"
² "I've been to the market, sir," she said.
"And why do you look so ³ blithe and gay?"
Said she, "I've sold ⁴ all my eggs today!"

"And mother will ⁵ smile when I tell to her,
That for ⁶ all the eggs I've got money, ⁷ sir.
She will say, 'My lassie's done ⁸ well today,
And ⁹ that's the reason I'm blithe and gay!"

—Recitations With Actions.

(1) Turn head to right. (2) Turn head to left. (3) Smile. (4) Spread hands. (5) Smile. (6) Same as 4. (7) Bow. (8) Clap hands. (9) Bow.

Three little rules we all should keep
To make life happy and bright:
Smile in the morning, smile at noon,
And keep on smiling at night.

—Anon.