

# JIM GILL: A JOYOUS WAY TO LEARN!

Thirty years ago I created a weekly program in music play for an agency providing programs and support for families with young children with special needs. Initially the agency professionals and families attending all looked at the program as an opportunity to gather for simple fun. After a number of weeks, however, everyone began pointing out the *abilities* that children were demonstrating through this play. It wasn't long before some of the therapists were singing my songs in their sessions. Parents also noted that singing the songs with their children at home was a joyous way to continue to work, more or less, therapeutically on their own.

In other words, it was play.... but *play with purpose*.

I spent twenty years leading this "play" programming and continue to be influenced by what I observed...while playing. In addition to this practical work, my graduate studies in child development helped me to understand *why* play is the ideal context for young children to learn and for adults to guide that learning.

I hope that you will leave this session inspired to share a new repertoire of songs and games with children that you work with and care for. Even more, I hope that you will recognize the power of play to inspire, in children, agility in thought and a love of learning.

## **THE TEMPO MARCHES ON**

*Adapted from the traditional melody by Jim Gill.*

*From Jim Gill Sings Do Re Mi...*

We are marching to the rhythm,  
We are marching to the beat.  
We are lifting up our knees  
and we are stamping down our feet.  
But the song keeps getting faster  
with each verse that we complete.  
The tempo marches on.

CHORUS:

Faster, faster, faster, faster.  
Faster, faster, faster, faster.  
Faster, faster, faster, faster.  
The tempo marches on.

## **STICK TO THE GLUE**

*From Jim Gill Makes it Noisy in Boise...*

Clapping hands one and two.  
Clapping hands one and two.  
But if one hand is covered with glue...  
you stick to the glue my darling.

CHORUS:

Glue, glue, stick to the glue  
Glue, glue, stick to the glue  
Glue, glue, stick to the glue  
Stick to the glue my darling.

Stamping feet one and two...

Shaking hands one and two...

Hugging friends one and two...

Brushing teeth one and two...

## **TOY BOAT**

*From Jim Gill's Irrational Anthem...*

Toy Boat.

REPEAT

*(These are the only lyrics for this tongue twister)*

## **OH HEY OH HI HELLO**

*From Jim Gill Makes it Noisy in Boise...*

In the great state of Ohio  
From Cincinnati to Toledo  
they never simply say hello...  
they sing "Oh hey Oh hi Hello."

CHORUS:

Oh hey Oh hi Hello  
Oh hey Oh hi Hello  
Oh hey Oh hi Oh hey Oh hi Hello

When they're in the library  
They sing it very quietly.

Outside in a great big crowd  
They sing together very loud.

When they're sad and teary-eyed  
they sing it even as they cry.

Sure they'll sing it when they're sad,  
but they'll even sing it when they're mad.

Under water in the swimming pool  
it sounds very unusual.

Whenever there's a big full moon  
They tend to sing it out of tune.

## **ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI**

*From Jim Gill Sings the Sneezing Song...*

Alabama, Mississippi  
Alabama, New Orleans  
Alabama, Mississippi  
Shake it on down to New Orleans

Shake, Shake, Shake

Shake it baby

Shake, Shake, Shake

Shake it baby

Shake, Shake, Shake

Shake it baby

Shake it on down to New Orleans

## **POISON IVY**

*From Jim Gill Sings the Sneezing Song...*

Poison ivy under bushes...  
Poison ivy under trees...  
Poison ivy in the forest...  
Poison ivy on my knees!

CHORUS:

Poison ivy makes me  
Scratch scratch scratch  
Itch and scratch my knees  
Poison ivy by the daisy...  
Poison ivy by the rose...  
Poison ivy by the flower that I smelled  
with my nose!

Poison ivy on the prairie...  
Poison ivy on the farm...  
Poison ivy in the pasture...  
Poison ivy on my arm!

Poison ivy over there...  
Poison ivy over here...  
Poison ivy all around where I sat  
upon my rear!

Poison ivy's green like grass...  
Poison ivy looks like clover...  
And maybe that is why I am itching all over!

## **THE SNEEZING SONG**

*From Jim Gill Sings the Sneezing Song...*

Please don't feed me black-eyed peas  
You know what they will do  
For if you feed me black-eyed peas  
I'll have to sneeze...Ah...Ah...Ah Choo!  
Please don't feed me macaroni and cheese...  
Please don't feed me chocolate chip cookies...

*All songs copyright Jim Gill, Inc.*

## **LIST OF DANCES**

*From Jim Gill Makes it Noisy in Boise...*

I made a list of all the dances in this song.  
I made a list so that I'd never sing them wrong.  
'Cause it's hard to remember  
and easy to forget  
a list that is sixteen dances long.

(You do)  
The tall  
The small  
The hop  
The stop  
The slow  
The tiptoe  
The curl  
The twirl  
The hide  
The slide  
The sleep  
The creep  
The slump  
The jump  
The sway  
The stay

We've done dances like the tiptoe and the hop.  
We've done them but it's still not time to stop.  
'Cause though we danced it one time  
the list would seem brand new  
if we read it from the bottom to the top.

## **THE IRRATIONAL ANTHEM**

*Did you know that the melody to "The Star Spangled Banner" is an old English tavern song? Francis Scott Key's poem was sung to the tune of "Anacreon in Heaven" and it caught on. It took until 1931, however, for the song to officially become our national anthem. My own "Irrational Anthem" uses the same melody to create a game that begins simply, but builds to irrational expectations.*

*From Jim Gill's Irrational Anthem...*

Oh say can you see me slap on my knee?  
If you'll do the same, we'll begin this new game.

Oh but say I have plans to add clapping hands.  
And this we'll repeat 'til the song is complete.

Oh say just suppose that we tried tapping toes  
And attempted all three simultaneously.

Oh say have you tried to sway side to side?  
Lean left, then reverse ... on this, the fourth verse.

Oh say I'll advise that you now close your eyes.  
And let me remark ... it's more fun in the dark.

Oh say one more thing. Do you think you  
could sing? La la la la la la la la la la.....

## **ONE FROM THE LEFT (A FINGER PLAY)**

*If you listen to the lyrics in this finger play...and let your fingers dance to the sounds of the guitar...you can figure out motions that will be fun for you! If you want to watch a video for some ideas, visit my website: jimgill.com.*

*From Vote for Jim Gill*

One from the left and one from the right  
Met in the middle and danced all night.  
They made up a dance called "The Whoop-De-Do."  
Then they waved goodbye and walked away...  
those two.

Two from the left and two from the right  
Met in the middle and danced all night.  
They made up a dance called "Snips Galore."  
Then they waved goodbye and walked away...  
those four.

Three from the left and three from the right  
Met in the middle and danced all night.  
They made up a dance called "The Finger Mix."  
Then they waved goodbye and walked away...  
those six.

Four from the left and four from the right  
Met in the middle and danced all night.  
They made up a dance called "Bend and Straight."  
Then they waved goodbye and walked away...  
those eight.

Five from the left and five from the right  
Met in the middle and danced all night.  
They made up a dance called "Clap and Clap and Clap and Clap Again."  
Then they waved goodbye and walked away...  
all ten.

## **SLIDING, ROLLING AND JUMPING**

*From Jim Gill Sings Moving Rhymes...*

I woke up in the morning and I **slid**  
right out of bed.

I **slid** into the bathroom  
and the comb **slid** across my head.

I **slid** into the kitchen  
and I **slid** into a chair.

And when I finished breakfast,  
I **slid** right out of there.

I **slid** into my coat  
and I **slid** my way to work and then  
I was **slid** from task to task  
and **slid** back home again.

I **slid** into the kitchen and when I was well fed  
I **slid** into my pajamas and I **slid** back into bed.

(Repeat for **Rolled** and **Jump**)

## **TEA FOR TWO**

"TEA FOR TWO" BY IRVING CAESAR  
AND VINCENT YOUMANS

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*From ...Music Play for Folks of All Stripes*

Tea for two  
and two for tea.  
Another friend comes and that makes three.  
Three for tea  
and tea for three.  
Add one more and that makes four.  
Four for tea  
and tea for four.  
Should another friend arrive, that makes five.  
Tea for five  
and five for tea.  
Everyone's welcome! It's a tea party!

## **MY UPS AND DOWNS**

*From Jim Gill Sings Do Re Mi...*

As I ascend my arms extend  
And I intend to stretch my body straight—  
As I elevate.

The music falls I'm getting small  
I finally sprawl 'til I can move no more—  
On the floor.

My body grows and grows until I pose on  
tiptoes

I am way up high—  
Near the sky.

Soon I sink my size will shrink I'm on the  
brink

Of bruising my kneecaps—  
As I collapse.

One last time I think I'll climb  
This pantomime has surely been fantastic—  
Like elastic.

My knees bend as I descend  
This song must end as I am sitting down—  
On the ground.

## **HAVE YOU SEEN THE TRAMPOLINE?**

*From ...Music Play for Folks of All Stripes*

Have you seen the trampoline?  
Please look around. Look what we found!

Have you seen the trampoline?  
Please look some more. It's on the floor!

Have you seen the trampoline?  
It's gone and then it's back again!

Have you seen the trampoline?  
It's hard to lose. It's in our shoes!

## **BOUNCING, HOPPING AND JUMPING**

*From Vote for Jim Gill*

One thing on my list  
Of things I can't resist is bouncing.

I just can't explain  
Why I can't refrain from bouncing.

Of course it's a curse  
But there are things that are worse  
Than bouncing.

One more thing on my list  
Of things I can't resist is hopping.

I just can't explain  
Why I can't refrain from hopping.

Of course it's a curse  
But there are things that are worse  
Than hopping.

The last thing on my list  
Of things I can't resist is jumping.

I just can't explain  
Why I can't refrain from jumping.

Of course it's a curse  
But there are things that are worse  
Than jumping.

One thing I am learning is  
I keep returning to  
Bouncing and hopping and jumping.

Yes I have attractions  
To these three rapid actions:  
Bouncing and hopping and jumping.

When I think to compare  
I end up in the air  
When I'm bouncing...and hopping...and  
jumping.

## **SILLY DANCE CONTEST**

*From Jim Gill Sings the Sneezing Song...*

Dance any way you want to  
Dance any way you please  
Dance any way you want to  
But stop when I say freeze.

Jump as high as you want to...

Dance as fast as you want to...

Dance as slow as you want to...

## **BEETHOVEN'S FIVE FINGER PLAY**

*From ...Music Play for Folks of All Stripes*

The time has come...show me your thumb.  
Next thing to do...pointers out too.  
Middles extend...as they unbend.  
Ring fingers next...flex them outstretched.  
No time to wait...pinkies out straight.  
Here are the plans.  
Please clap those hands!

## **ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI**

*From Jim Gill Sings the Sneezing Song...*

Alabama, Mississippi  
Alabama, New Orleans  
Alabama, Mississippi  
Shake it on down to New Orleans  
Shake, Shake, Shake  
Shake it baby  
Shake, Shake, Shake  
Shake it baby  
Shake, Shake, Shake  
Shake it baby  
Shake it on down to New Orleans

## **PLAY GUITAR**

*Simply listen and add the motions. Lots of toddlers and preschoolers are sure to pretend to play along!*

*From Vote for Jim Gill*

Ride a horse.  
Row a boat.  
Drive a car.  
Play guitar.

Bounce a basketball.  
Toss it high.  
Shoot it far.  
Play guitar.

You can play the drums.  
And it's fun to play the bass.  
And of course you don't need me to say  
What other instrument you can play.

Wave goodbye.  
Adios.  
Au revoir.  
Play guitar.

## **MAY THERE ALWAYS BE SUNSHINE**

*From Jim Gill Sings the Sneezing Song...  
and Jim Gill's Irrational Anthem...*

May there always be sunshine  
May there always be blue skies  
May there always be mama  
May there always be me

## **SPIN AGAIN...AGAIN**

*Children can, of course, take turns spinning while their name is inserted into the song.*

*From Jim Gill Sings Do Re Mi...*

There was a girl named Lucy Finnegan.  
She would spin and spin and spin again.  
When the song was over she'd beg to begin again.  
Poor Lucy Finnegan.

## **JUMP UP, TURN AROUND**

*From Jim Gill Sings Moving Rhymes...*

Simple motions and a simply rhyme.  
Say it as you play it and repeat two times.

Jump up  
Turn around  
Clap your hands  
Stamp the ground  
REPEAT

Let's play it again, but this time try  
To say it as you play and stretch your arms  
Up high.

Let me suggest that this time you might  
Say it as you play it with your eyes  
closed tight.

Get ready my friends to take a deep breath  
Because I challenge you to play it as you hold  
Your breath!

## **JUMPING AND COUNTING**

*From Jim Gill's Irrational Anthem...*

Jump Jump Jump Jump  
Jumping high are we.  
But we'll stop jumping  
While we count to three.

Jump Jump Jump Jump  
Jumping even more.  
But we'll stop jumping  
While we count to four.

Jump Jump Jump Jump  
Just like pogo sticks.  
But let's stop jumping  
While we count to six.

Jump Jump Jump Jump  
Jumping then we wait.  
We stop our jumping  
While we count to eight.

Jump Jump Jump Jump  
Jumping once again.  
But we'll be finished  
Once we count to ten.

*All songs copyright Jim Gill, Inc.*

## **CONDUCTING CAN BE FUN**

*Based on Eine kleine Nachtmusik (Serenade No. 13 for strings in G major) by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.  
From Vote for Jim Gill*

One and one. Conducting can be fun.  
(Use just your two index fingers to pretend to conduct the musicians.)

Two and two. Just wave them as I do.  
(Now use your index and middle fingers to pretend to conduct the musicians.)

Three and three. Conduct a symphony.  
(Use your index, middle and ring fingers to pretend to conduct the musicians.)

Four and four. A chamber music score.  
(Add your pinky fingers this time and pretend to conduct the musicians with four fingers on each hand.)

Five and five. Now that two hands have arrived,  
Conduct with me this Mozart finale!  
(Use both hands with all fingers and thumbs to conduct the finale in dramatic fashion!)

## **TOE LEG KNEE**

*Point to each body part as you sing the words up and down like a musical scale or "DO RE MI."  
From Jim Gill Sings Do Re Mi...*

Toe, leg, knee, arm, elbow, jaw, teeth, nose.  
Nose, teeth, jaw, elbow, arm, knee leg, toe.

*All songs copyright Jim Gill, Inc.*

## **FACE THE FACTS**

*From Jim Gill Sings Moving Rhymes...*

Oh...I must face the fact.  
My swimming arms are back.  
Oh we must face the fact.  
Our swimming arms are back.  
They are splashing, flapping, stretching,  
lapping one full mile exact.  
We must face the fact.  
Our swimming arms are back.

REPEAT WITH:

...scissor legs...  
They are cutting, clipping, slicing, snipping,  
trimming the rick rack.

...driving hands...  
They are guiding, steering, turning, veering  
my air Cadillac..

...binocular eyes...  
They are peering, peeking, scanning, seeking  
needles in haystacks.

...jumping jacks ...  
They are bounding, flapping, jumping,  
clapping, picking up the slack.

## **VOTE FOR JIM GILL**

*To Play: Begin sitting down. When you hear the words, point to your nose (knows), knees (need), back, and the top of your head (top). Stand up. Place both hands on your head (ahead). Bend fingers to show knuckles. Point to your waist. Point to shoulders and face. Point to your stomach (guts) and your temple (to indicate your mind). Point to your rear (behind) and your rear once again (bottom). Sit down (seat) and point to your legs (legacy) and stamp your feet one at a time (defeat).*

*From Vote for Jim Gill*

Everyone **knows** what we **need** to get **back** to the **top**.

We must **stand** for the right to get **ahead**.

Let's **knuckle** down and cut the **waste**.  
**Shoulder** burdens that we **face**.

Have the **guts**, if you don't **mind**, to get **behind** this candidacy.

We can rise from the **bottom** and win this **seat**  
and our **legacy** will be their **defeat**.

## **KNUCKLES KNEES**

*From Jim Gill Sings Do Re Mi...*

Knuckles knees  
Knuckles nose  
Knuckles tummy  
Knuckles toes

Knuckles hair  
Knuckles hips  
Knuckles legs  
Knuckles lips

Knuckles straight  
Knuckles bend  
Knuckles knuckles  
That's the end.

## **YOU CAN ORDER JIM'S CDS AND BOOKS ONLINE AT [WWW.JIMGILL.COM](http://WWW.JIMGILL.COM)**

Jim Gill is a musician and author with unique credentials among children's artists. Jim is a child development specialist, having completed his graduate studies in child development at the **Erikson Institute of Chicago** with a special emphasis on the study of play. For this reason, each of Jim's recordings and books is created as an opportunity for playful interactions between a child and a caring adult. In addition to his studies, Jim's 20 years of experience creating and leading play groups for families with children with special needs has informed his work. Jim led weekly music play programs at numerous therapeutic and family support agencies in the Chicago area. His unique writing style — combining *word play and movement opportunities into songs* — was inspired by this work. Just as important, his strategies to promote family involvement in his concerts were developed through these weekly sessions.

Jim has released seven award-winning CDs of music play for young children that are favorites in family rooms, classrooms and playrooms. He is also the author of two children's books. His latest, *A Soup Opera*, is a sing-along opera inspired by concerts that Jim performs with symphony orchestras. The book received an **American Library Association** award in 2010. Jim has received five separate awards from the **American Library Association** for his recordings and books over the years.

