

# Clapping Games

## Adult Guidance

Clapping games are great for developing hand strength, hand-eye coordination and spatial awareness. They are a great activity to develop fine motor skills as a warm-up or individual activity.

### Whole Class Clapping

Clap out a rhythm for children to follow. This can start simply and build to a more complex rhythm and routine. Vary the speed and volume of the clapping. As children become more confident, you may have them alternating between clapping their hands together and clapping on their knees. You could also ask children to make up their own clapping rhythms.

### Clapping Songs

There are a range of well-known clapping games which children can copy as a whole class, small groups or work in pairs. Here are some examples (lots more clapping songs can be sourced online):

#### A Sailor Went to Sea, Sea, Sea

A sailor went to sea, sea, sea,  
To see what he could see, see, see.  
But all that he could see, see, see  
Was the bottom of the deep blue sea, sea, sea.

A sailor went to chop, chop, chop,  
To see what he could chop, chop, chop.  
But all that he could chop, chop, chop  
Was the bottom of the deep blue chop, chop, chop.  
Sea, sea, sea.

A sailor went to knee, knee, knee,  
To see what he could knee, knee, knee,  
But all that he could knee, knee, knee,  
Was the bottom of the deep blue knee, knee, knee.  
Chop, chop, chop.  
Sea, sea, sea.

A sailor went to snap, snap, snap,  
To see what he could snap, snap, snap.  
But all that he could snap, snap, snap  
Was the bottom of the deep blue snap, snap, snap.  
Knee, knee, knee.  
Chop, chop, chop.  
Sea, sea, sea.

A sailor went to jump, jump, jump,  
To see what he could jump, jump, jump.  
But all that he could jump, jump, jump  
Was the bottom of the deep blue jump, jump, jump.  
Snap, snap, snap.  
Knee, knee, knee.  
Chop, chop, chop.  
Sea, sea, sea.

#### Pat-a-cake

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man.  
Bake me a cake as fast as you can  
Pat it, roll it and mark it with a B  
Put it in the oven for **[insert child's name]** and me  
Patty cake, patty cake, baker's man.  
Bake me a cake as fast as you can;  
Roll it up, roll it up;  
And throw it in a pan!  
Patty cake, patty cake, baker's man.

