Using finger puppets with finger plays.

Finger plays are important and delightful early educational tools:
- Children love the rhyme, repetition, and rhythm. It gives them a sense of security.
- Children love the often nonsensical humor.
- They are usually easy to memorize which gives children a quick sense of accomplishment.
- Once they have learned a finger play and rhyme, they have ownership and something to share. This is a great self-esteem builder.
- Finger plays are terrific tools for introducing new vocabulary.
- They are great for developing good motor control.
- They help develop eye/hand coordination.
- THEY ARE JUST PLAIN FUN!

The **Two Little Blackbirds** rhyme and finger play is a great introductory choice.

### English and Spanish Versions

#### TWO LITTLE BLACKBIRDS

Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill.
(Put puppets on index fingers and pair them up in front of you)

One named Jack.
(Scrunch finger to make puppet head move introducing Jack)

The other named Jill.
(Scrunch finger to make puppet head move introducing Jill)

Fly away Jack.
(Fly Jack behind you.)

Fly away Jill.
(Fly Jill behind you.)

Come back Jack.
(Flap Jack back into sight.)

Come back Jill.
(Flap Jill back into sight.)

#### DOS PÁJAROS NEGROS

Dos pájaros negros en la loma.  
Este es Pablito.  
Este es Paloma.  
Vuela Pablito.  
Vuela Paloma.  
Regresa Pablito.  
Regresa Paloma.

Translation by: Silvia León

FOR INFANTS: Keep puppets inside their field of vision (near your face) and then slowly take them out to help infant with tracking skills and eye muscle development. Great for playing peek-a-boo too! Remember, infant is focusing on your face first, so your expression is pertinent to your infant’s response!

FOR EARLY PRESCHOOLER: Have each child use their index finger as their blackbirds while you lead with your finger puppets following the directions. Now the children have two fantasy blackbirds, one named Jack and the other named Jill, that they can share and take anywhere! The rhyme is easy to learn with its rhythm and repetition. The finger play actions are ideal for your early preschooler to accomplish quickly without frustration!

FOR AGE APPROPRIATE PRE-K, KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE: This simple finger play can be used to introduce a more complex activity and concept!

**Introducing the Concept of Opposites**

Two little blackbirds sitting on a wall,  
One is SHORT and the other is TALL.  
Fly away short, fly away tall.  
Come back short, come back tall.

Use your imagination to have blackbirds demonstrate the opposite. Your facial expression and voice often speak for your puppets. Example: to demonstrate SHORT and TALL, just hold one puppet higher than the other.

Two little blackbirds flying in the sky,  
One flies LOW and the other flies HIGH.  
Fly away low, fly away high.  
Come back low, come back high.

**This format is also great for teaching the concept of rhyming!**

Access the page called *Introducing the Concept of Opposites*