Grand Old Duke of York
The grand old Duke of York (march in place)
He had ten thousand men
He marched them up to the top of the hill
And he marched them down again
And when they were up they were up (stand on toes)
And when they were down they were down (bend knees)
And when they were only halfway up (stand regular)
They were neither up (tiptoes)
Nor down (bend knees)

Down By the Bay—found on Raffi’s Singable Songs for the Very Young CD
(You can create your own silly rhymes and add as many as you like to this song)
Down by the bay,
Where the watermelons grow,
Back to my home,
I dare not go.
For if I do, my mother will say:
“Did you ever see a good kissing a moose?”
Down by the bay!
(repeat the refrain)
“Did you ever see a whale with a polka dotted tail?”
Down by the bay!
(repeat the refrain)
“Did you ever see a bear combing his hair?”
Down by the bay!
(repeat the refrain)
End with—“Did you ever have a time when you couldn’t make a rhyme?”
Down by the bay!
(This is a great song for car trips—especially if your children are getting restless!)

Backward Town by Mary Ann Hoberman
The folks who live in backward town
Are inside out and upside down.
They wear their hats inside their heads.
And go to sleep beneath their beds.
They only eat the apple peeling.
And take their walks across the ceiling!

Pease Porridge
Pease porridge hot; Pease porridge cold;
Pease porridge in the pot nine days old.
Some like it hot; some like it cold;
Some like it in the pot nine days old.

Things to do Together
• A fun game to play in the car—begin with a simple word like “cake” or “frog” and then, you and your child together call out as many words as you can think of that rhyme with—sound the same as—the first word. Nonsense words work too!
• Top and Bottom—Cover both the top and bottom of a table with paper. Let children decorate the top and then the bottom of the table. Ask them which was easier to do and why?
• Different textures—Gather various objects from nature with your child (rocks, leaves, feather, pinecones). Talk about their opposite textures, describing them for your child.

Other Resources
Every Child Ready to Read: Literacy Tips for Parents
by The Lee Pesky Learning Center