

Hugs on the Wind by Marsha Diane Arnold and Vernise Elaine Pelzel

Activities for Parents and
Educators

Thank you to Vernise Elaine Pelzel, my friend and co-author, for sharing some good curriculum ideas, activities, and a song. They are here along with some of my own.

Activity 1:

HUGS ARE ON THE WAY (song)

by Vernise Elaine Pelzel c 2006

(To the tune of Here Comes Peter Cottontail)

Hip-pity-Hop-pity Hugs Are On The Way!	(slap thighs)
Here comes Little Cottontail Hopping down the clover trail Hugging the wind, now Hugs are on the way	(R hand, 2 fingers up for ears) (bounce hand) (hug self and open arms forward)
Here comes Little Cottontail Grinning smiles, the clouds will sail Traveling miles across the sky today	(R hand, 2 fingers up for ears) (draw grin on face, looking up) (two hands swirl high R to L)
Hip-pity Hop-pity Hip-pity-Hop Hip-pity Hop-pity Hip-pity-Hop Hip-pity Hop-pity Hip-pity-STOP	(slaps thighs, or jump up, turn around and wiggle tail; clap on STOP)
Close your eyes, you'll feel the Hugs Look-up at clouds; you'll see the smiles Think of who you'll send some to this way	(close eyes, hug self) (point up R hand) (R finger taps temple)
Hip-pity-Hop-pity Hugs Are On The Way!	(slap thighs)

Activity 2: Little Cottontail's Meadow Salad

(This is an accumulative activity, a fun way to practice memorization skills, and a way to learn your vegetables.)

Mama Cottontail was gathering wild lettuce and sweet red clover in **Hugs on the Wind**. Little Cottontail loves salad!

Let's add some vegetables to Mama and Little Cottontail's Meadow Salad. Then we'll toss our salad and enjoy!

Tossing, tossing in the bowl
Sweet red clover, wild lettuce, and some _____. (Child names a vegetable, such as “carrots”.)

Tossing, tossing in the bowl
Sweet red clover, wild lettuce, carrots, and some _____.

Each child adds a vegetable and tosses the imaginary salad with their hands.
Variation: Experiment with clapping the rhythm of the vegetables as they are added to the bowl.

Variation: Experiment with adding a movement/gesture as each vegetable is added.
(Examples: Hands high in air for wild lettuce. LEAN FORWARD AND CHOMP FOR CARROT.)

Variation: Make an orchestration called "Little Cottontail's Salad". The teacher or parent begins, repeating her/his chosen vegetable pattern & gesture. One at a time, the teacher points to each child, and he/she joins the rhythm orchestra. The orchestra ends when the teacher again points to each child to stop. The teacher whispers the last vegetable name.

Activity 3:
The Great Green Meadow
(a science activity)

Little Cottontail lived in the Great Green Meadow.
What other animals might live in the Great Green Meadow?
If you lived in the Great Green Meadow, what animal would you be?
What would you find to eat in the Great Green Meadow?
What would you do for fun in the Great Green Meadow?
Draw a picture of your favorite animals in the Great Green Meadow, having fun.

Activity 4:
Missing Someone Special
(a separation activity)

Have you ever missed someone, the way that Little Cottontail missed his grandfather?
Maybe you have missed a friend or a pet or a relative.
Write a letter to Little Cottontail telling him about the person or animal that you have missed or that you miss now. Draw a picture of that person or animal.

Activity 5:

The Five Senses

Name our five senses. (Touch, hearing, smell, sight, taste.)

Little Cottontail and Mama Cottontail use their senses a lot in **Hugs on the Wind**.

List the different ways they use each sense.

(Possibilities:

Great Green Meadow – smell of flowers and grasses

Sight – all the colors, clouds above, stars at night

Taste – sweet red clover and wild lettuce

Hearing – wind, river, trees

Touch – grasses tickling, cool river water

Draw a picture of your favorite part of the Great Green Meadow and how it makes you feel.