Birthday Bonanza

Rhymes & Resources

Compiled by
Mary G. Marshall & Sue Eilers
A Cat Had a Birthday
(from Sesame Street / Hot! Hot! Hot! Dance Songs)

A cat had a birthday, and all the cats came to eat cat cake and play a cat game,
To open cat presents and when they were through
They said “Happy Birthday” the way cats do.
They said, “Meow, meow, meow!”
Everybody do it now. “Meow, meow, meow!”
Really nothing to it. “Meow, meow, meow!”
Well, imagine that.
You said “Happy Birthday” in cat.

A duck had a birthday and all the ducks came to eat duck cake and play a duck game
To open duck presents and when they were through
They said “Happy Birthday” the way that ducks do
And they said, “Quack, quack, quack!”
Everybody do it now, “Quack, quack, quack!”
Really nothing to it, “Quack, quack, quack!”
Well the ducks are in luck, you’ve just said “Happy Birthday” in duck.

Now when a rooster wants to say “Happy Birthday” to you
He says, “Cock-a-doodle, cock-a-doodle-do!”
Now listen real close and I’ll tell you more,
“Happy Birthday" to a lion is a great big “ROAR,” nice.

A cow had a birthday and all the cows came to eat cow cake and play a cow game
To open cow presents and when they were through
They said “Happy Birthday” the way cows do
And they said, “Moo, moo, moo!”
Everybody do it now, “Moo, moo, moo!”
Really nothing to it, “Moo, moo, moo!”
Well you just learned how to say “Happy Birthday” in cow.

Where’s the cats? [meow, meow, meow]
Let’s hear the ducks! [quack, quack, quack]
Do it rooster! [cock-a-doodle-do]
What’s up lion? [ROAR]
Word cows! [moo, moo, moo]

You were really great,
I'm proud of ya, “Happy Birthday!”

Use puppets for each section and have children make the appropriate animal noises.
A Birthday
(Ring A Ring O’Roses)

Today is [insert child’s name] birthday.
Let’s make her [him] a cake. [form cake with hands]
Mix and stir, [action of stirring]
Stir and mix,
Then into the oven to bake. [pretend to place cake in oven]
Here’s our cake so nice and round. [make a circle with arms]
We frost it pink and white. [action of spreading frosting]
We put four [substitute correct number] candles on it, [hold up same number of fingers]
To make a birthday bright.

Birthday Months
(Milliken/ Finger Plays & Action Rhymes)

If your birthday is in January, turn around.
If your birthday is in February, touch the ground.
If your birthday is in March, march along.
If your birthday is in April, sing a song.
If your birthday is in May, wiggle your nose.
If your birthday is in June, shake your toes.
If your birthday is in July, jump up high.
If your birthday is in August, reach the sky.
If your birthday is in September, tap your shoe.
If your birthday is in October, call out “Boo!”
If your birthday is in November, tickle your ears.
If your birthday is in December, give three cheers.
Birthday, Birthday, Birthday
(Hopkins/ Happy Birthday)
Balloons on the ceiling
Balloons on the floor
Hoppy-poppy birthday
Hoppy-pop some more.
Candles on the big cake
Candles on the floor
Huffy-puffy birthday
Huffy-puff some more.
Icing on my fingers
Icing on the floor
Sticky-licky birthday
Sticky-lick some more.
Ice cream on my new shirt
Ice cream on the floor
Slippy-drippy birthday
Slippy-drip some more.
Presents on the table
Presents on the floor
Happy-snappy birthday
Happy-snap some more.

This poem can be used with a flannel board or finger puppets displaying the main items (cake, balloons, etc.).

It's Birthday Party Time
(Silberg/ 300 Three Minute Games)
Tune: “The Farmer in the Dell”

It’s birthday party time.
It’s birthday party time.
Hi ho the derry-o,
It’s Birthday party time.

It’s time to blow candles.
[make blowing motions]
It’s time to blow candles.
Hi ho the derry-o,
It’s time to blow candles.

It’s time to eat the cake.
[make eating motions]
It’s time to eat the cake.
Hi ho the derry-o,
It’s time to eat the cake.

Let’s open up presents.
Let’s open up presents.
Hi ho the derry-o,
Let’s open up presents.
**Five Little Birthday Girls**

(Sue Eilers)

Tune: “Five Little Ducks”

One little girl
Went out to play
At a birthday party one day.
She had such enormous fun
That she called for another little girl to come.

Two little girls
Went out to play
At a birthday party one day.
They had such enormous fun
That they called for another little girl to come.

*Repeat up to five little girls. Use with finger puppets or flannel board.*

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**Five Birthday Girls**

(Mary Marshall)

Five birthday girls, waiting at the door,
One ran out to meet her friends,
And that left four.
Four birthday girls, pouring the hot tea,
One left to get the honey,
And that left three.
Three birthday girls, the candles they blew,
One left to cut birthday cake,
And that left two.
Two birthday girls, playing games of fun,
One left to unwrap her gifts,
And that left one.
One birthday girl, party almost done,
She said good-bye to her friends,
And that left none.

*Use with finger puppets or flannel board.*
Birthday Candles
(Mary Marshall)

One candle on a birthday cake
Light it just for fun.
And now there is one,
One candle lighting a birthday cake.

One candle on a birthday cake.
Light one that is blue.
And now there are two,
Two candles lighting a birthday cake.

Two candles on a birthday cake.
Light one just for me
And now there are three
Three candles lighting a birthday cake.

Three candles on a birthday cake.
Light one and no more
And now there are four
Four candles lighting a birthday cake.

Four candles on a birthday cake.
Light one before they arrive
And now there are five
Five candles lighting a birthday cake.

Use flannel board
or cutting birthday cake
for this rhyme.

Five Candles
(Roberts/Mitt Magic)

Five candles on a birthday cake
Five, and not one more.
You may blow one candle out,
[make blowing sound and motion]
And that leaves four!

Four candles on a birthday cake
There for all to see.
You may blow one candle out,
[make blowing sound and motion]
And that makes three!

Three candles on a birthday cake
Standing straight and true.
You may blow one candle out,
[make blowing sound and motion]
And that leaves two!

Two candles on a birthday cake
Helping us have fun.
You may blow one candle out,
[make blowing sound and motion]
And that leaves one!

One candle on a birthday cake
We know its task is done.
You may blow this candle out,
[make blowing sound and motion]
And that leaves none!
The New Happy Birthday Song
(Birthday Party Songs Activity Book)
Click your fingers with me and sing along,
Because we’re going to learn the new birthday song.
Clap your hands with me and sing along,
Because we’re going to learn the new birthday song.
Happy birthday to you, to you.
Today’s your special day.
Happy birthday to you, to you.
Everyone shout “Hooray!”
Happy birthday to you, to you.
Today’s your special day.
Happy birthday to you, to you.
Everyone shout “Hooray!”
March around the table, and sing along,
Because we’re going to learn the new birthday song.
Stomp around the table, and sing along,
Because we’re going to learn the new birthday song.
Click your fingers with me and sing along.

Have children click, clap, march, etc. at the appropriate places in the song.
Can you guess which gift is in which package?
Which would you most like to receive?
Selected Books on Birthdays


Music

*Birthday Songs: Games & Fun for Your Party!* CD.
*Birthday Party!: Singalong* CD
*Let’s Wiggle* CD (The Wiggles)
Teacher Resources

1001 Rhymes and Fingerplays for Working with Young Children.  


Best of the Mailbox Songs, Poems, and Fingerplays.  
Greensboro, NC: Education Center, n.d.

Birthday Party Songs Activity Book (Twin Sisters)  
Briggs, Diane. 101 Fingerplays, Stories and Songs to Use with Finger Puppets.  

Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House, 1996.

Charner, Kathy. The Giant Encyclopedia of Theme Activities for Children 2 to 5.  


Forte, Imogene. [Month] Patterns, Projects & Plans Series [by Month].  


The Mailbox [magazine]  
McKinnon, Elizabeth. Busy Bees Fall.  
Everett, WA: Warren, 1994 [also, Spring, Summer, Winter].


Raines, Shirley and Robert Canady. Story S-T-R-E-T-C-H-E-R-S.  


Schiller, Pam and Thomas Moore. Where Is Thumbkin?  


Stetson, Emily and Vicky Congdon. Little Hands Fingerplays & Action Songs.  


Story Totes

Animals for All Seasons [seasons & different animals]
“B” Is for Building [building & construction machines]
Beautiful Babies [big brothers, big sisters, & new babies]
Billions of Bugs [all kinds of insects]
Birthday Bonanza [celebrating birthdays]
Bunches of Bears [teddy bears & real bears]
Cool Cats & Cuddly Kittens [cats & kittens]
Dazzling Dinosaurs [dinosaurs]
Fabulous Food [food and eating]
Fascinating Families [all types of families & their members]
Fun on the Farm [farms & farm animals]
 Helpers & Heroes [community helpers]
Monster Mania [monsters]
Pooches by the Pound [dogs & puppies]
Preschoolers Pretend [imagination & play]
Rainbows & Stars [colors & shapes]
Sensational Seasons [the four seasons]
Sing a Song of Sixpence [music & rhyme]
Spectacular Sea Stories [ocean & sea creatures]
Trips Around Town [places to visit]
Wild Weather [all types of weather]
Wonderful World of Wheels [transportation]
Going to the Zoo [zoos & zoo animals]

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