

# WOODY GUTHRIE

**Songs To  
Grow On For  
Mother And  
Child**



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2. **Swimmy Swim\*** 1:53
3. **Little Sugar (Little Saka Sugar)** 1:22
4. **Rattle My Rattle** 1:11
5. **I Want My Milk (I Want it Now)** 2:17
6. **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8** 1:11
7. **One Day Old** 1:33
8. **Wash-y Wash Wash (Warshy Little Tootsy)** 1:34
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10. **Make a Blobble** 2:05
11. **Who's My Pretty Baby (Hey Pretty Baby)** 1:43
12. **I'll Write and I'll Draw** 2:27
13. **Why, Oh Why** 3:27
14. **Pick It Up\*** 1:51
15. **Pretty and Shiny-O\*** 1:28
16. **Needle Sing\*** 2:15
17. **Bling-Blang\*** 2:41
18. **Goodnight Little Arlo (Goodnight Little Darlin')** 3:16

*All songs written, composed, and performed by Woody Guthrie. All songs published by TRO - Ludlow Music, Inc. BMI except for those with an asterisk (\*), which are TRO - Folkways Music Publishers, Inc. BMI.*

Recorded by Moses Asch  
Reissue supervision by Anthony Seeger and Matt Walters  
Remastered by Joe Gastwirt at Ocean View Digital, West Los Angeles, CA.  
Cover drawing by Woody Guthrie  
Cover design by Daphne Shuttleworth  
*Previously issued on Folkways FC7015 (1956) and side one of FC7016 (1985).*



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In the 1990s, many people know of Woody Guthrie through his songs for adults. He was the composer of "This Land is Your Land" as well as many moving songs that document the events he witnessed and the struggles he participated in during his lifetime. Yet Woody Guthrie was also a wonderful writer and performer of songs for children. Filled with whimsy and enthusiasm, dealing with events in the lives of young children, they are as much fun to sing today as the day they were written. This album contains eighteen songs for children ages 4-6, along with Woody Guthrie's wonderful instructions about how these songs should be used by parents and children alike. Look for Woody Guthrie *Nursery Days* SF 45036, a companion release.

*Anthony Seeger*

Smithsonian/Folkways Recordings

*Lyrics and notes by Woody Guthrie enclosed.*



**Smithsonian  
Folkways**

Smithsonian/Folkways Recordings  
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Washington DC 20560

# WOODY GUTHRIE

## SONGS TO GROW ON FOR MOTHER AND CHILD

Cathy Ann, we used to call her Miss Stackabones, heard every one of these songs before Moe Asch [the founder of Folkways Records] melted them down onto his records. And so did Tannehill Faulk, who is 2 1/2, and so did Little Annie Lomax. (She's 22 months.) They heard the Lomaxes, the Faulks, and us Guthries sing them in the car and out at the big house on the apple farm in the Pocono Mountains.

So we had, let's see now, Annie, 22 months, and Tannehill, 2 1/2 years, and Cathy, almost 4 years, Elizabeth Lomax, 28, Alan Lomax, 31, Hallie Faulk, 26, Johnnie Faulk, 32, Marjorie Guthrie, 29, and I was thirty-four (years, not months).

I really did try to slant these songs at all of you citizens from four to six, but I spilled over a little on every side, because all of us sang and danced these songs and all of us got about the same kick out of them.

Stackabones likes her songs and stories best of all when her mommy and poppy sing, talk, listen and dance with her. She joins in lots quicker, and louder, and freer when all of us lay down our books, papers, our knitting, twitting, and our heavy spirits, and all get going together on our story, our song, or dance.

We beat on books, boxes, on tin cans and floors. We rattle shakers, spoons, and bells, and we jump all around in a long trot, a rig a jig jig, a crazy lope, gallop, or wild jump. We settle down then and tell some real quiet story in a whisper. We make up some new story if we forget our old ones. She gets more fun out of this at school and at home than most any other thing she does.

I've been making up songs and playing and singing them now for twenty years, and Cathy at nearly 4 years can out rhyme, out play me, out sing me, any old day. Marjorie has been a dancer and a teacher now for twelve or fifteen years with the Martha Graham Company, the Neighborhood Playhouse, and at other schools. And Cathy makes me want to dance lots of times when I don't feel like it. Her mommy says, "All of us older dancers must look to the movements of the children, we must learn to move as a child, and with the free heart and soul of a child."

As for me, my own self, I don't want to see you use my songs to divide nor split your school nor your family all apart. I mean, don't just buy this record and take it home so your kids can listen to it while you go off and do something else. (Of course, that's one thing records are really good for, but that's not the best thing.)

I want to see you join right in, do what your kids do. Let your kids teach you how to play and how to act these songs out. (These and thousands of other songs.) Get your whole fam damily into the fun. Get poppa. Get momma. Get brother. Get sister. Get aunty. Get uncle. Get grandma. Grandpa. The friends. The neighbors. Everybody. But mostly get yourself into it.

Please, please, please, don't read nor sing my songs like no lesson book, like no text for today. But, let them be a little key to sort of unlock and let down all of your old bars. I'm not trying to bait nor trick the little fellers into tearing through all of their fun to my songs. I know the kids will blow their tops. The kids have taught me all I know or ever hope to know.

Watch the kids. Do like they do. Act like they act. Yell like they yell. Dance the ways you see them dance. Sing like they sing. Work and rest the way the kids do.

You'll be healthier. You'll feel wealthier. You'll talk wiser. You'll go higher, do better, and live longer here amongst us if you'll just only jump in here and swim around in these songs and do like the kids do.

I don't want the kids to be grownup. I want to see the grown folks be kids.

### Woody Guthrie, 1956

Woody Guthrie's life has been documented on film, books, and records. *Bound for Glory* is his autobiography. *Woody Guthrie: A Life* by Joe Klein is a biography. There is also a bibliography, *A Woody Guthrie Bibliography* 1912-1967 edited by R. A. Reuss. "Hard Travelling: Woody Guthrie" is a 70-minute video documentary of his life and songs (MGM/USA release 60084).

Woody Guthrie (1912-1967) recorded many albums for Folkways Records, as well as for other labels. Among those available on Folkways are "Folkways: The Original Vision" (SF40001), "Woody Guthrie Sings Folk Songs" (SF40007), "Struggle" (SF40025), "Nursery Days" (SF45036). Also on Folkways are Guthrie's "Bound for Glory" (2481), "Ballads of Sacco and Vanzetti" (5485). Some of his songs are featured on "Folkways" A Vision Shared" (CBS 44034).

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### Grassy Grass Grass

"I'll be the grass and you be the tree; we'll all grow bigger and bigger together."

Grassy, grass grass,  
Tree, tree, tree,  
leafy, leaf leaf,  
Oney two three.

Birdy, bird•bird,  
Fly, fly, fly,  
Nesty, nest nest,  
High high high.

Cloudy, cloud cloud,  
Windy, wind wind,  
Rainy, rain rain,  
Muddy, mud mud.

Doggy, dog dog,  
Runny, run run,  
Quicky, quick quick,  
Homey, home home.

Beddy, bed bed,  
Sheety, sheet sheet,  
Sleepy, sleep sleep,  
Dreamy, dream dream.

Dancie, dance dance,  
Singy, sing sing,  
Grow, grow, grow,  
Biggy, big big.

### Swimmy Swim

"I'll bet I can swim more funny  
ways than you."

I like to swim in my water,  
I like to swim in my water,  
Water water and water,  
Swim swim swimmy I swim.

Chorus: •  
Swim swim swimmy  
I swim and I swim  
Swim swim swimmy  
I swim and I swim  
Swim swim swimmy  
I swim and I swim  
Swim swim swimmy  
I swim.

I like to kick in my water,  
I like to kick in my water,  
Water water and water,  
Swim swim swimmy I swim.

I like to splash in m my water,  
I like to splash in my water,  
Water water and water,  
Swim swim swimmy I swim.  
I like to float in my water,  
I like to float in my water,  
Water water and water,  
Swim swim swimmy I swim.

### Little Sugar

Chorus:  
Jiggle, jiggle, jiggle, jiggle,  
Tickle, tickle, tickle, tickle,  
Little sack of sugar  
I could eat you up.

Jiggle, jiggle, jiggle,  
Pickle, pickle, pickle,  
Little sack of sugar  
I could eat you up.

Hey, hey, hey,  
Little sack of sugar  
Ho! Ho! Ho!  
Little sack of sweet.

Hee, hee, hee,  
My pretty little angel.  
So pretty, pretty, pretty  
I could eat your feet.

Hey, hey, hey,  
Little honey-bunny.  
Ho! Ho! Ho!  
Little turtle dove.

Hee, hee, hee,  
Little sack of 'taters.  
So pretty, pretty, pretty  
I could eat your toes.

Hey, hey, hey,  
My toosie-wootsie.  
Rangle, tangle, dangle,  
And a honey and a tree.

Ho! Ho! Ho!  
My butterfly-flitters,  
So pretty, pretty, pretty  
I could eat your nose.

Jiggle, jiggle, jiggle, jiggle,  
Tickle, tickle, tickle, tickle,  
Little sack of sugar  
I could eat you up.

### Rattle My Rattle

Rattle my rattle, rattle . . .  
Pull my rattle . . .  
Shake my rattle . . .

1-2-3, 1-2-3 . . .  
A-B-C-D-E- . . .  
F-G-H-I-J . . .

### I Want My Milk

I want my milk and I want it now!  
(2)  
My breast and well, I want my  
bottle, both;  
and I want my milk and I want it  
now.

I want my bath, and I want it  
now! (2)  
Let it rain, let it pour, let me swim,  
let me float;  
I want my bath and I want it now.

I want my vitamin drops, and I  
want 'em now! (2)  
Skinny-man and a fat-man and a  
great big bubble-gum-man;  
I want my vitamin drops and I  
want them now.

I want my rattle and I want it  
now! etc.

I want my nipple and I want ft  
now! etc,

I want my bottle and I want it  
now! etc.

**1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8**

Chu-Chu-Chu-Chu . . . etc.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 . . . etc.

A-B-C-D-E-F-G . . . etc.

### One Day Old

Chorus:  
1 day, 2 days, 3 days old,  
4 days, 5 days, 6 days old;  
7 days, 8 days, 9 days old,  
10 days, 20 days, no days old.

I'm a little baby 1 day old,  
I'm a little sweet thing 2 days old;  
I'm a little doodle-bug 3 days old,  
I'm a little cutie-pie 4 days old.  
(Chorus)

I'm a little baby 5 days old,  
I'm a little chipmunk 6 days old;  
I'm a little jay-bird 7 days old,  
I'm a little angel 8 days old.  
(Chorus)

I'm a little baby 9 days old,  
I'm a little kitty-cat 10 days old;  
I'm a little flower 11 days old,  
I'm a little sugar-kit 12 days old.  
(Chorus)

I'm a little baby a few days old,  
I'm a little snicker-snacker some  
days old;  
I'm a little jabber-talker 11 days  
old,  
I'm a little butterfly one minute  
old. (Chorus)

### Wash-y Wash Wash

Chorus:  
Wash-y, wash-y, wash-y,  
Wash-y, wash-y, washy,  
Jingle, jangle, jing-a-ling  
Pincky, pancky, ponck.

Wash-y little tootsie,  
Wash-y little big-y toe,  
Wash-y little chin, chin,  
Pincky, pancky, ponck.

Wash-y little leg, leg,  
Wash-y little cheek, cheek,  
Wash-y little eyes-y,  
Pincky, pancky, ponck.

Splish, splash toes-y,  
Splish, splash little toes,  
Splash-y little hands-y,  
Pincky, pancky, ponck. (Chorus)

Splish, splash big toe,  
Splish, splash little toe,  
Splish, splash finger,  
Pincky, pancky, ponck.

Laugh, laugh, with me,  
Rub, rub, at me,  
Dry, dry, tum-tum,  
Pincky, pancky, ponck.

Brush, brush pretty hair,  
Brush, brush pretty hair.  
Wrap in a warm towel,  
Pincky, pancky, ponck. (Chorus)

### I'll Eat You, I'll Drink You

I'll eat you and you'll eat me  
Soda-pop, ice-cream, sugar in my  
tea;  
1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, Ho, ho, ho, ho,  
ha, he, he,  
I'm going to eat you up, I'm going  
to drink you down.

Chorus:  
I'll eat you, I'll drink you  
Yum, yum, yum, yum, yum,  
I'll slip you, I'll slurp you,  
Slip-y, slip-y, slip-y, slurp.

I'll bite you, I'll chew you,  
Yum, yum, yum, yum, yum,  
I'll gulp you, I'll slurp you,  
Slip-y, slip-y, slip-y, slurp.  
(Chorus)



I like you, I love you,  
Yum, yum, yum, yum, yum . . .  
etc.

I smell you, I taste you,  
Slip-y, slip-y, slip-y, slurp . . . etc.

I touch you, I feel you, etc.

I pat you, I rub you, etc.

### Make a Blobble

O, my pretty baby  
If you don't make a bubble  
You'll swell up your tummy  
Like a big balloon.

You'll fly up so high  
In the clouds and skies  
If you don't make a bubble  
Make a bubble pretty soon.

Patty, patty, back back (2)  
Peter, pater, snicker, snacker  
Blow a bubble soon.

O, you'll fly across the ocean  
And you'll fly across the sea  
If you don't make a bubble  
Just wait and see.

All the people they'll see you,  
Fixing up the moon  
Like a big balloon  
Or— make a bubble soon.  
(Chorus)

### Who's My Pretty Baby

Who's my pretty baby  
You're my pretty baby  
Hey, hey, pretty baby  
Ho, ho, pretty baby  
Who'll be my big man  
Who'll be my nice lady  
Who'll be my rumple dumpling  
Hey, hey, pretty babe.

Mamma's gone away now  
Daddy he's gone, too  
Go to sleep my pretty little baby . .

### I'll Write and I'll Draw

I'll write and I'll draw and I'll spell  
you a word,  
Big "A" and a little "A" and a mid-  
dlesize "A,"  
I'll make you a number 1, 2, 3 and  
4,  
and I'll scramble them around so  
you can see them run.

Take my pencil, crayon, and  
brush,  
big "B" and a little "B" and a new  
kind of "B,"  
I'll spell 10 kitcats up in a tree,  
And squish them around you can  
see.

Write write write scribble scrab,  
Big "C" little "C" middlesize "C,"  
Write my mommy and write my  
dad,  
Prettiest letter I ever did read.

Splish splash splish splash jiggle  
my chalk,  
Momma "D" poppa "D" little baby  
"D,"  
Double 1 double 2 double ZYX,  
Red, blue and yellow and brown-  
eyed green.

I dabble I dabble I doodle I write,  
Grandma "E" Grandpa "E" and  
freckle faced "E,"  
Everybody climbing a green-leafed  
tree,  
The funniest people I ever did see.

I'll write and I'll draw and I'll spell  
you a word,  
With a big "A" and a little "A" and  
a middlesize "A,"  
I'll make you a number — 2, 6,  
and 1,  
And I'll scramble them around to  
make them run.

### Why, Oh Why?

Why can't a dish break a ham-  
mer?  
Why, oh why, oh why?  
'Cause a hammer's a hard head.  
Goodbye, Goodbye, Goodbye.

Chorus:  
Why, oh why, oh why-o,  
Why, oh why, oh why?  
Because, because, because,  
because, because,  
Goodbye, Goodbye, Goodbye.

Why can't a mouse eat a street-  
car?  
Why, oh why, oh why?  
'Cause a mouse's stomach could  
never get big enough to hold a  
streetcar.  
Goodbye, Goodbye, Goodbye.  
Why does a horn make music?  
Why, oh why, oh why?  
Because the horn player blows it.  
Goodbye, Goodbye, Goodbye.

Why does a cow drink water?  
Tell me why and why.  
Because a cow gets thirsty just like  
you and me and everybody else.  
Goodbye, Goodbye, Goodbye.

### Chorus

Why don't you answer my ques-  
tion?  
Why, oh why, oh why?  
'Cause I don't know the answer.  
Goodbye, Goodbye, Goodbye.

What makes a landlord take  
money?  
Why, oh why, oh why?  
I don't know that one myself.  
Goodbye, Goodbye, Goodbye.

Why's there no pennies for ice  
cream?  
Why, oh why, oh why?  
You put all the pennies in the tele-  
phone.  
Goodbye, Goodbye, Goodbye.

Why can't a rabbit chase an  
eagle?  
Why, oh why, oh why?  
'Cause the last rabbit that took  
and chased off after an eagle  
didn't come off so good, and that's  
why rabbits don't chase eagles,  
and that's all I know about rabbits  
and eagles.  
Because, Because, Because.

Why ain't my grandpa my grand-  
ma?  
Why, oh why, oh why?  
Same reason your dad is not your  
mama.  
Goodbye, Goodbye, Goodbye.

Why couldn't the wind blow back-  
wards?  
Why, oh why, oh why?  
'Cause it might backfire and hurt  
somebody and if it hurt somebody  
it'd keep on hurting them.  
Goodbye, Goodbye, Goodbye.

### Chorus

© Woody Guthrie, Ludlow Music,  
TRO, BMI.

### Pick It Up

I dropped my thumb, pick it up,  
pick it up. (Three times)  
And put it back with my fingers.

I dropped my candy, pick it up,  
pick it up. (Three times)  
And throw it away in the garbage.

Chorus:  
Pick pick picka, pick it up, pick it  
up. (Three times)  
Pick pick picka, pick it up, pick it  
up.

I dropped my apple, pick it up,  
pick it up. (Three times)  
And wash it clean in the water.

I dropped my dolly, pick it up, pick  
it up. (Three times)  
And lay her back in her cradle.

I dropped my shoe, pick it up, pick  
it up. (Three times)  
And put it with my other shoe.

I dropped my head, pick it up,  
pick it up. (Three times)  
Put it back on my shoulders.

### Chorus

© Woody Guthrie, Ludlow Music,  
TRO, BMI

### Pretty and Shiny-o

I take my brush, I take my broom,  
Clean and I clean around my  
room.  
Clean and a-clean around my  
room  
To make it pretty and shiny-o.

Take my polish, take my cloth,  
Rub and I rub and I polish it off.  
Rub and I rub to polish it off,  
To make it pretty and shiny-o.

Take my soap, take my clothes,  
Down and down in the water they  
go.  
Down and down in the water they  
go  
To make them pretty and shiny-o.

Take my brush, scrub my teeth,  
Scrubble and a-scrabble and I  
brush my teeth.  
I bubble and blow, bubble and  
blow,  
To make them pretty and shiny-o.

Tippy tap toe, I go to bed,  
Close my eyes and rest my head.  
Sleepy sleepy tight, sleepy sleepy  
tight,  
To make eyes pretty and shiny-o.

(Repeat last verse)

© Woody Guthrie, Ludlow Music,  
TRO, BMI

### Needle Sing

Don't you hear my needle sing,  
Don't you hear my needle sing,  
I sing, mama, don't you hear my  
needle sing,  
Mama, don't you hear my needle  
sing.

Knittin' for my daddy, needle sing.  
(Three times)  
Well, mama, don't you hear my  
needle sing.

Chorus:  
Zinga zinga zinga zinga needle  
sing. (Three times)  
Mama, don't you hear my needle  
sing.

Stitchin' for my brother, needle  
sing. (Three times)  
Mama, don't you hear my needle  
sing.

The baby at the thimble, needle  
sing. (Three times)  
Mama, don't you hear my needle  
sing.

Chorus

Oh the kitten got my button, needle  
sing.  
Kitten got my button, etc. (Two  
times)  
Mama, don't you hear my needle  
sing.

Mama, don't you hear my needle  
sing. (Four times)

Chicken in the basket, needle sing.  
(Three times)  
Mama, don't you hear my needle  
sing.

Catchin' me a sweetheart, needle  
sing.  
Catchin' me a sweetheart, needle  
sing.  
Catchin' me a fella, needle sing.  
Mama, don't you hear my needle  
sing.

© Woody Guthrie, Ludlow Music,  
TRO, BMI

### Bling-Blang

Chorus:  
Bling, blang, I hammer with my  
hammer.  
Zingo zango, cuttin' with my saw.  
(Repeat both lines)

Well you get a hammer and I'll get  
a nail,  
And you catch a bird and I'll catch  
a snail.  
You bring a board and I'll bring a  
saw,  
And we'll build a house for the  
baby-o.

Chorus

Well I'll grab some mud and you  
grab some clay.  
So when it rains it won't wash  
away.  
We'll build a house, it'll be so  
strong,  
The winds will sing my baby a  
song.

Chorus

Run bring the rocks and I'll bring  
the bricks.  
A nice pretty house we'll build and  
fix.  
We'll jump inside when the cold  
wind blows,  
And kiss our pretty little baby-o.

Chorus

Well you bring a ladder and I'll get  
a box.  
We'll build our house out of bricks  
and blocks.  
When the snow bird flies and the  
honey bee come.  
We'll feed our baby on honey in  
the comb.

Chorus

© Woody Guthrie, Ludlow Music,  
TRO, BMI

### Goodnight Little Darling

Chorus:  
Goodnight little darling, good-  
night, goodnight.  
Goodnight little darling, good-  
night.  
(Repeat both lines)

You played, little darling, all day.  
Your eyes are sleepy I see.  
Boys and girls are all sleeping  
tonight,  
Goodnight little darling, good-  
night.

Chorus

You played, little darling, all day,  
With dolls and wagons and clay.  
Your bath was warm and your  
jammers are nice,  
Goodnight little darling, good-  
night.

Chorus

You hurt your finger I see.  
Come here and bring him to me.  
Wrap the little finger up nice and  
tight.  
Goodnight little darling, good-  
night.

Chorus

You danced and sung with the  
kids.  
Told me all that you did.  
Told me your games and told me  
your fights.  
Goodnight little darling, good-  
night.

Chorus

Tippy, tippytoe now to bed.  
Snug and snug down your head.  
Cover you over now nice and  
tight.  
Goodnight little darling, good-  
night.

Chorus

I'll see you when the morning gets  
bright.  
Don't let the beddybugs bite.  
Goodnight little darling, good-  
night.

Chorus

© Woody Guthrie, Ludlow Music,  
TRO, BMI

### Smithsonian Folkways Records

Folkways Records was one of  
the largest independent  
record companies of the mid-  
twentieth century. Founded by  
Moses Asch in 1947 and run  
as an independent company  
until its sale in 1987,  
Folkways was dedicated to  
making the world of sound  
available to the public. Nearly  
2,200 titles were issued,  
including a great variety of  
American folk and traditional  
music, children's songs, world  
music, literature, poetry, sto-  
ries, documentaries, language  
instruction and science and  
nature sounds.

The Smithsonian acquired  
Folkways in order to ensure  
that the sounds and the genius  
of the artists would continue  
to be available to future gen-  
erations. Every title is being  
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