WOODY GUTHRIE
Songs to Grow on For Mother and Child

1. Grass Grassy Grass (Grow, Grow, Grow)* 1:35
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
9. I'll Eat You, I'll Drink You 1:40
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.
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 on 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 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 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 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.)


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 higher, go deeper, and live longer here amongst us if you 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.

Woodie 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, 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,  
One eye three.

Birdy, birdy 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,  
Quickly, quick quick,  
Homey, home home.

Buddy, buddy bed,  
Sheezy, 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.

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.

Little Sugar

Chorus:  
Jiggly, jiggly, jiggly, jiggly,  
Tickle, tickle, tickle, tickle,  
Little sack of sugar  
I could eat you up.

Jiggly, jiggly, jiggly,  
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 tootsie-wootsie.  
Rangle, tangle, dangle,  
And a honey and a tree.

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

Jiggly, jiggly, jiggly, jiggly,  
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 . . .

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

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.

Wash-y Wash Wash

Chorus:  
Wash-y, wash-y, wash-y,  
Wash-y, wash-y, wash-y,  
Jingle, jingle, jingle-a-ling  
Pinky, pankey, ponck.

Wash-y little tootsie,  
Wash-y little big-y toe,  
Wash-y little chin, chin,  
Pinky, pankey, ponck.

Wash-y little leg, leg,  
Wash-y little cheeck, cheeck,  
Wash-y little eyes-y,  
Pinky, pankey, ponck.

Splosh, splosh toes-y,  
Splosh, splosh little toes,  
Splash-y little hands-y,  
Pinky, pankey, ponck. (Chorus)

Splosh, splosh big toe,  
Splosh, splosh little toe,  
Splosh, splosh finger,  
Pinky, pankey, ponck.

Laugh, laugh, with me,  
Rub, rub, at me,  
Dry, dry, tum-tum,  
Pinky, pankey, ponck.

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, 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,  
I’ll gulp you, I’ll slurp you,  
Slip-y, 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 middle size “A,”
I’ll make you a number 1, 2, 3 and 4,
And I’ll scramble them around so you can see them run.

Why, Oh Why?

Why can’t a dish break a hammer?
Why, oh why, oh why?
‘Cause a hammer’s a hard head.
Goodbye, Goodbye, Goodbye.

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

Why can’t a mouse eat a streetcar?
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 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 question?
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 telephone.
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 grandma?
Why, oh why, oh why?
Same reason your dad is not your mama.
Goodbye, Goodbye, Goodbye.

Why couldn’t the wind blow backwards?
Why, oh why, oh why?
‘Cause it might backfire and hurt somebody if it hurt somebody it’d keep on hurting them.
Goodbye, Goodbye, Goodbye.

Chorus

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Pretty and Shiny-O

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

Take my soap, take my clothes,
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.
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.

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

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

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Pick It Up

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

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**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 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.
(Three times)
Chicken in the basket, needle sing.
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.

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**Bling-Blang**

Chorus:
Bling, blang, I hammer with my hammer.
Zinga zinga, 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, goodnight.
Goodnight little darling, goodnight.
(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, goodnight.

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, goodnight.

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, goodnight.

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, goodnight.

Chorus
Tippy, tippytroe now to bed.
Snug and snug down your head.
Cover you over now nice and tight.
Goodnight little darling, goodnight.

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

Chorus

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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, stories, 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 generations. Every title is being kept in print and new recordings are being issued. Administered by the Smithsonian's Office of Folklore Programs, Folkways Records is one of the ways the Office supports cultural conservation and continuity, integrity, and equity for traditional artists and cultures.

Several hundred Folkways recordings are distributed by Rounder Records. The rest are available on cassette by mail order from the Smithsonian Institution. For information and catalogs telephone 202/287-3262 or write Folkways, Office of Folklore Programs, 955 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 2600, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.