

An Autumn Play
Suse König, H. Diestel and W. Klein
Translated by Joan Almon with some adaptation.

Underneath a green pine tree.
Lives a gnome so small and wee.
Knocking, thumping day by day,
Making sounds of hammer play.

The pine tree makes a sound so soft
It stands and bends and listens oft.

Little people full of jest
Do not want to sleep or rest.
Dancing gnomes so small and wee
In a ring around a tree.

La, la, la, la, la, la with simple melody.

1, 2. and 3 are sung: squirrel, mouse and chipmunk.

4. Oh, how slowly, oh how slowly
Creeps the snail along his trail.
From one crevice to the next
Seven days with scarce a rest.
Oh how slowly, oh how slowly
Creeps the snail along his trail.

5. Birds in the wood
Do what they should
Warm in their nest
Where they can rest.

6. The blowy winds lie fast asleep
'Til a giant shouts in their cave so deep.
Heia, they awake and spread their wings
Around the earth their whistle rings.

7. Wind song from Elisabeth Lebret Song Book or another wind song.

Little birds in their nest bend low
Through the trees the wind does blow.

8. From the trees fall leaves of gold
Glittering in their dresses bold.

Then speaks the dwarf to the little gnome
Leaves are falling, all must go home.

9. Says the chipmunk to the mouse,

It's time for us to find a house.
Oh, guide our way and make it bright
You dwarf and gnome with your golden light.

10. Lantern Song *Dwarf and gnome can carry lanterns.*

11. Play on Glockenspiel - Mother Earth..... All listen.

Shh! Shh! There rings a tone.
Mother Earth calls us to her home

Sing Mother Earth Song.

12, 13, 14 are sung: Chipmunk, mouse and birds then Mother Earth Song.

Action songs followed by Mother Earth gesturing her creatures to her.

15. Squirrel Song and Mother Earth Song.

16. Here comes the snail at last.
He knows that winter can come fast. Mother Earth Song.

17. Seed Song and Mother Earth Song.

The Seed Song can be done on the floor. At this point I always found the children wanted to snuggle up to Mother Earth so the final songs were done with gestures by the teacher but with the children cuddled up close.

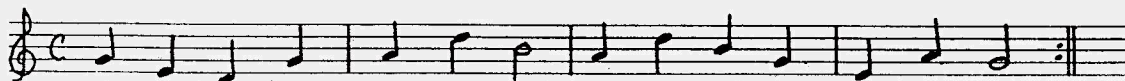
18. Bridge Song

19. Gnome Song

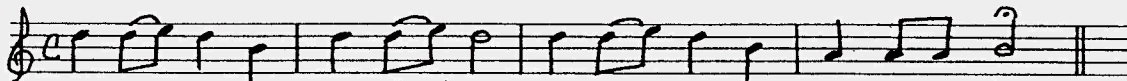
20. Fire Song and Mother Earth Song.

Can exit with Lantern Song or other appropriate song to get children up again.

This play can be done with individual children taking different parts with simple costumes or with all children playing all parts by moving around in a continuous circle. It was loved for years by my kindergarten children and when one of the songs was sung at the East Coast Kindergarten Conference in February, I promised to print the play and music in the Newsletter.

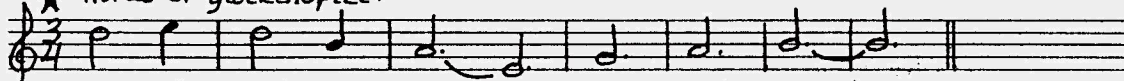


1. O-ver branch-es with-out rest, Runs the squir-rel to his nest.
 2. Lit-tle mous-kin runs so fine, O-ver stones in warm sun-shine.
 3. Mist-er chip-munk hides a-way, Und-er leaves so red and gay.
7. (I am The Wind; or other wind song)

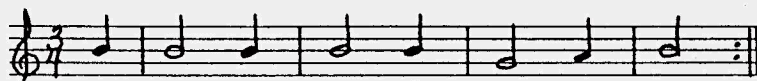


10. Lan-tern, lan-tern, shin-ing bright, Lan-tern, lan-tern, fol-low the light.

★ Words or glockenspiel:

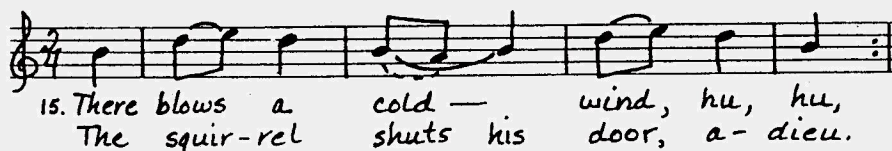


11. Dear-est Moth-er Earth —, O- pen wide!



12. The chip-munk seeks his win-ter kouse,
13. And in her hole slips Mis-sus Mouse.
14. The bird-ies best fly in their nest.

Then ★



15. There blows a cold — wind, hu, hu,
The squir-rel shuts his door, a-dieu.

Then ★,
then snail verse,
then ★

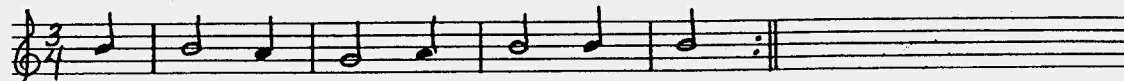


17. And in the king-dom of the Earth
There sleep warm seeds a-wait-ing birth.

Then ★

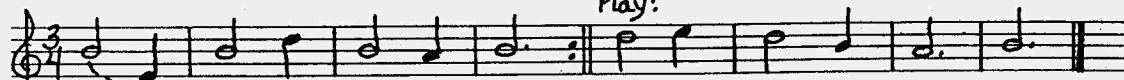


18. Of shin-ing crys-tal a bridge does stand;
It leads the dwarfs to their own land.



19. While ev'-ry, earth-ly crea-ture sleeps,
The gnome his win-ter's vig-il keeps.

Play:



20. Sun-fire in earth-ly home,
Guard-ed by the dwarfs and gnomes.

(Then sing a lantern song.)