



Examples of Service and Return Activities

Serve and return works like a game of tennis or volleyball between child and caregiver. The child “**serves**” by **reaching out for** interaction—with eye contact, facial expressions, gestures, babbling, or touch. A responsive caregiver/adult will “**return the serve**” by speaking back, playing peekaboo, finger plays, singing a song, sharing a toy or a laugh, giving a hug, giving a high five, etc.

For Babies:

If a baby looks at you, touches you or babbles or gestures:

- * Smile, imitate sounds, facial features, hug, etc.
- * **Finger plays:** Peek-a-Boo, Criss Cross Apple Sauce, Round and Round the Garden, One Little Two Little Fingers, Three Little Fingers...Pat-A-Cake,
- * **Songs:** Row Your Boat together, Someone is Hiding (with scarf, Blanket), the Hurray song with pom pom or dance with baby, Look Into the Mirror, Catch the Bubbles, Roll the Ball, etc.

For Toddlers/Preschoolers: (The adult has to be involved in all these activities with one child or the group of children to practice serve and return)

When a child looks at you, touches, you, babbles, speaks, points, etc:

- * Smile, hug, imitate sound, give them word for object they are pointing at or looking at, give high/five
- * If they have a car ask them to roll the car to you and roll it back, play game, if they have a phone, pretend to answer the phone with your own phone, if

they have plastic food, pretend to take a bite “yum” (expand of their play and play together with them)

- * **Finger Plays:** Peek-A-Boo, Criss-Cross, Pat-a-Cake, Open them/Shut them (do it together with the child), Finger Family, Where is Thumbkin? , etc.
- * **Songs:** Row Row Your Boat (can also be done as group for larger connection), Someone is Hiding, Hurray Song, Look into the Mirror, The Good Morning Train, Catch the Bubbles, Reach Inside, Down at the Corner Store, Ring around a Rocket Ship
- * **Games:** Pass a hand, finger, elbow game, One Potato High Five / Fist Bump Game, Catch the Bean Bag name exchange

For Kindergarten and Schoolagers: (The adult joins in all these activities with one child or the group of children to practice serve and return)

- * Smile, high five, low five, thumb war, pinky shake, elbow touches or link elbows, wave, light touch finger wave, etc.
- * **Songs:** Row Your Boat, Someone is Hiding, Hurray Song, The Good Morning Train, Reach Inside, Down at the Corner Store, Ring Around a Rocket Ship
- * **Games:** Cooperative Musical Squares, Name Exchange, Pass a hand, finger, elbow, etc. One Potato High Five/Fist Bump Game, etc.

Song Lyrics

(Tunes to many of the songs can be found on ConnectAbility.ca)



Someone is Hiding: The lyrics to the song are: “**Someone is hiding, hiding, hiding, someone is hiding, who can it be? Peek-a-boo, I see you...peek-a-boo, I see (child(ren)’s name).**” (Use a scarf or blanket hold it up near a child’s face and then move it down. With a larger group you can have 2 or more children “hide” at the same time”)

The Hurray Song: The lyrics to the song are: “**Hurray for (child’s name), Hurray for (same child’s name), someone in the crowd is singing hurray for (same child’s name), 1,2,3,4 who are we for, (same child’s name), that’s who!**” (Child named in the song is shaking the pom pom). If there is no pom pom available, everyone can clap hands. With a larger group, you can sing several names, for example, “**Hurray for Aidan, Hurray for Hamza, someone in the crowd is singing, Hurray for Sinead, 1,2,3,4 who are we for, Jordan, that’s who**” etc.

The Good Morning Train: The lyrics to the song are: “**The Good Morning Train is coming how are you? Choo Choo.. The Good Morning Train is coming how are you? Choo Choo...The Good Morning Train is coming, The Good Morning Train is coming, the Good Morning Train is coming how are you? Choo Choo... And we say hello to (child’s name), how are you? Choo Choo...And we say hello to (child’s name) Choo Choo (continue until you say hello to everyone and then finish with “Choo Choo”.**

Look Into the Mirror Song: The lyrics to the song are: “**(Child’s name,) oh (Child’s name) look into the mirror, tell me oh tell me, tell me what you see, (hold up a mirror to child’s face), I see a (nose) in place, I see (eyes) in place, nose in place, eyes in place, oh oh oh oh...”** etc.

Catch the Bubbles: The lyrics are: “**Catch the bubbles, catch the bubbles, as they fall, as they fall, (Child’s name) catch the bubbles, (another child’s name) catch the bubbles, as they fall, as they fall..”**etc.

Roll the Ball Song: The lyrics are: “**I roll the ball to (Child’s name), s/he rolls it back to me, I roll the ball to (Child’s name) , s/he rolls it back to me, roll, roll, roll**

the ball, roll, roll, roll the ball, I roll the ball to (Child's name), s/he rolls it back to me..."etc.

Reach Inside: The lyrics are: **"Reach inside, Reach inside, what did you find, what did you find? (Child's name) found a (object), (Child's name) found a (object) reach inside, reach inside"etc.** Place a variety of objects in a bag. For example: a toy car, a toy dog, a plastic apple, a toy bus and give each child (or one child) a turn picking out an object. Identify the object they pick out in the song.

Down at the Corner: The lyrics are: **"Down at the Corner at the (grocery, toy, clothes) store, there were (the number of objects) little (toys, foods, objects) sitting on the floor, along came (Child's name) on her/his own, and s/he picked up the (name the object) and took it home. La la la la la la la la la.." etc.** Place a variety of objects on the floor or on a table. While singing the song, each child has a turn picking one of the objects and holding it.

Ring Around a Rocket Ship: The lyrics are: **"Ring around a rocket ship, flying round and round (everyone joins hands and flies in a circle) zoom, zoom, zoom zoom, we all go down (everyone sits on the floor). Ring around a rocket ship, zooming to the sky, (everyone stands up and holds hands walking in a circle again), up, up, up, up to the stars we fly".**

Games



Cooperative Musical Squares: Depending on the size of your group, place several large cardboard squares on the floor (that can hold several children). **Explain to children that the object of the game is for children to help each other get on the squares when the music stops.** When the music stops, wait until everyone is on a square and then, remove a square. **No one is out in this game!** Continue until there are only one or two squares left on the floor (depending on the number of children) and when the music stops for the last time, encourage everyone to help everyone else get on a square. Then cheer and tell the children: **“We did it, we worked together!!!”**

Pass a Body Part: Sitting in a group, the adult begins by touching a body part (for example an elbow, a foot, a hand) to a child beside her/him. Explain to the children that they are going to “pass” an (elbow, foot, hand) to their neighbour. This can be done several times.

One Potato Game: The adult has a bean bag or a soft ball that will be used for the game. The adult leads the game. The words of the game are: **“One Potato, two Potato, three potato, four, five potato, six potato, seven potato more”**. The bean bag (soft ball) is passed from person to person as each number is called. Whoever has the bean bag (soft ball) at seven potato more, turns and gives a high five/fist bump to the child(ren)/adult on both sides of her/him. Repeat the game a couple of times.

Bean Bag Name Exchange: The adult has a bean bag or soft ball. The adult names of the children (for example: “Cayden”) and gives him/her the bean bag. The adult explains that each child will name one of the children in the group and give her/him the bean bag. The adult explains that each child can only be named once in the game and that everyone gets a turn. *Older children can use the bean bag/ball or just exchange places in the circle when the call another child’s name.

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