

## We're Waiting

### Materials

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None

### What to do

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1. As much as we try to avoid it, there are inevitably times when the children will be required to wait for an anticipated activity or event to begin.
2. Before beginning this song, explain why they are being asked to wait and tell them you are going to sing a song together to make the waiting time go faster.
3. Ask the children to clasp their hands together, interlinking fingers.
4. Show them how to roll one thumb around the other in the typical "waiting" gesture. While the children are rolling their thumbs, sing this simple song to any tune you choose.

*We're waiting, we're waiting,  
We're waiting, we're waiting,  
We're waiting, we're waiting  
For (insert activity name here) to begin.*

5. Change the song as necessary to reflect the situation. For example, if the children are waiting for the ice cream truck to show up, you might change the last line to "for the ice cream truck to come."
6. Play silly "mind" games. Ask the children to close their eyes and think about the anticipated activity. Guide them in their thoughts much as a meditation guru would guide those participating in meditation. If the activity becomes available while the children are meditating, you can tell them that their good thoughts helped to make the activity happen!

### More to do

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**Games:** If your anticipated activity seems to be endlessly delayed and you cannot move on to another activity, play some simple and fun games that require little or no equipment. For example, grab some small toys and play a "What's Missing?" game.

## Original poem

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**I Don't Like Waiting!** (begin with everyone standing)

*I don't like waiting, no I don't! (shake head)*

*Not a tiny bit! (waggle index finger in air)*

*I don't like waiting, no I don't! (shake head)*

*I don't like to sit! (sit down suddenly)*

*But when I really have to wait, (pout)*

*It helps if I can find (hold both hands out, palms up)*

*Something to do with my hands (clasp hands together, fingers interlinking)*

*And occupy my mind. (nod head)*

❖ Virginia Jean Herrod, Columbia, SC

# Tap and Clap

## Materials

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None

## What to do

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1. When moving from one activity to another, use this transitional song.
2. Ask the children to sit on the floor with you. Encourage them to follow your motions as you demonstrate how to tap and clap.
3. Tap your thighs with open hands and say, "Tap." Clap your hands and say, "Clap." Repeat this rhythm and encourage the children to follow along.
4. When the children seem familiar with the rhythm, begin to sing the following song as they continue to tap and clap. Sing it to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It."

*If your name is (child's name), wash your hands.*

*If your name is (child's name), wash your hands.*

*If your name is (child's name), if your name is (child's name),*

*If your name is (child's name), wash your hands.*

5. Change the song according to the activity the children are heading toward. In this example, the children are washing hands in preparation for lunchtime.
6. You can use this song any time you ask a larger group of children to move from one activity to another. For example, when going outdoors sing, "If your name is (child's name), get your coat."