

Gathering Songs and Chants

When children are busy at individual or small group play, they sometimes want to continue with that activity, even when the adult announces that it is time for circle (large group), meal time, etc. Using a gathering song or two will encourage the children to change tasks and will remind them that they will have fun at the next activity as well!

*“Children, Children It’s Time To Eat,” M. Speranza (Tune – “Up On the Housetop”)
(BB CD#3 – Track #10)*

Children, children it’s time to eat, so find a chair and have a seat.
Serve the food and eat it up, talk with your friends and then clean up!

“Come on Over to Circle” (BB CD#3 – Track #11)

Come on over to circle,
Come on over right now,
Come on over to circle,
Come on over and sit right down.

“Come to Eat” (BB CD#1 – Track #70) (change “eat” to other activity)

Come, come, come to eat,
Come to eat together,
Come, come, come to eat,
Come to eat together.

“Everybody Have a Seat” (Tune – “Shortnin’ Bread”) (BB CD#3 – Track # 12)

Everybody have a seat, have a seat, have a seat
Everybody have a seat on the rug.
Not on a spider, not on a bug
Everybody have a seat on the rug.
(change to “on a chair – not over here, not over there,” etc.)

*“We’re On Our Way To Have Some Fun” (Tune – “Oh When The Saints Go Marching In”) –
Use this song to lead children to circle or other area.*

We’re on our way to have some fun, we’re on our way to have some fun.
And we’ll go marching one by one, we’re on our way to have some fun!
(change marching to other movements, i.e. hopping, tiptoe)

*“When You’re Finished Cleaning Up,” M. Speranza (Tune - “If You’re Happy and You Know It”)
(BB CD#3 – Track #13)*

When you’re finished cleaning up, come over here
When you’re finished cleaning up, come over here.
When the room is nice and neat, come over here and clap the beat,
When you’re finished cleaning up, come over here.

*“Who Has a Seat and is Ready to Listen?”- Chant and clap with a swing beat!
(BBCD#3, Track #14 and #15)*

Jameika has a seat and she’s ready to listen, and Marcus has a seat, he’s ready to listen,
And Lydia has a seat, she’s ready to listen, and Ronald has a seat, he’s ready to listen, etc.