



# READY, STUDY, GO

And other Poems

Mysore Diwa Swapna

# **READY, STUDY, GO** And other Poems

A collection of poems on Children

by M.D Swapna

poems C41 to C 86 +ca7

Typesetting and Image alignment

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## PREFACE

The first part of our poems on children was called ***Sleep Baby Sleep, and other poems***. Those were meant for infants or babies and belonged to the class of *lullaby*. In the introduction to the booklet we wrote: ‘at a later stage the child would be able to understand if read out to them [ or reading on their own]’. To some other children the matter in English can be told in the local or mixed language. Such poems are given here under the title ***READY, STUDY, GO And Other Poems*** .

We have included riddles in this list. This author believes that jokes, puns, simple proverbs, comics etc. could be included in children’s literature. But elders should select; First check if they are not undesirable, not dull and uninteresting or too complicated.

Notes are given whenever Indian words are used. As far as possible simple words are used. When this self-made guideline is not followed due to author’s lack of talent or for the sake of rhyme, apology phrase is added. Readers are requested to help the listeners [children]. Two lines as example are given below.

## PROSE IS VERBOSE VERSE IS TERSE

Another e,g ‘ inter-species interaction’ – it is not big biology – elders please say so and explain.

In part I of child poems we gave a few examples of our attempts at translation [real word would be ‘adoption’] of lullabies from a few other Indian languages. We have also stated: When the original in the native language of the writer is good and popular, any mimicking may not rise up to the original level. Yet we tried. In this booklet a hit song in Telugu is adopted to English. Some thought processes involved are given under the poem CA7.

The title of this booklet is ‘ Ready, Study , Go and other poems’. There is no poem with this title. One can find “ready, steady, go’ and later ‘read aloud ‘ good habits’. A mixture of these titles is the present one. We hope this is in tune with the general theme: physical AND mental wellbeing and growth of children,

It is hoped that themes relevant to children are dealt with throughout this booklet.

M.D,Swapna  
[pen name]

Mysore.

March 2025 ,May , 2023

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## C41 READY, STEADY, GO

READY, STEADY, GO

Seems like long long ago  
My school days' bare foot race  
I hope, even now, by God's grace  
are held such sudden races  
No coaches, no starters, no aces  
Children just line up and go  
No matter fast or slow.

It is 1, 2, 3 .. Go for tiny tots  
They know shouting numbers is fun  
Before food, find some time slots  
My day's voluntary work is done.

Alas! In Janatha Nagara, Mysore  
No fun for me or the tiny tots.  
Narrow crowded lanes and area is an eyesore  
All actions to be done in ten-by- ten plots.

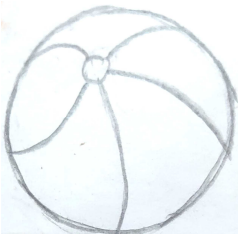
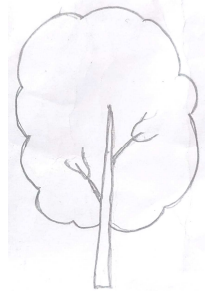
*[ note ; ten-by- ten = 10feetx10 feet area]*



## C42 ART

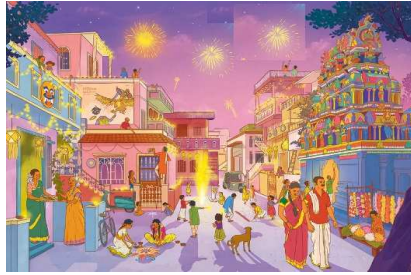
A line can be a snake  
A stroke can be a rope  
An oval can be a ball  
A circle can be a fruit  
A doodle can be a tree  
A curve can be a smileie

Children's art on paper  
Is for seeing and saying 'super'



## C43 DEEPAVALI

Lamps to light  
Dull to bright  
New moon night  
the day is right



Deepavali! Row and row  
of lamps and lanterns  
Look! How they throw  
light in patterns .



More light less sound  
does not reduce any ritual  
People have found  
ways to enjoy the festival.

Sweets, snacks, esoteric eats  
Of varieties of subcontinent taste  
Make, savour , and share treats  
What a joy without much waste!

Go children call  
Uncles, aunties all  
Deepavali sweets, deepavali joy  
All of us together enjoy.

## C44 DEEPAVALI CRACKERS

Diwali cracker , pataak  
It is coming to attack  
Get away patak patak!  
Hey what is this ? puzz, puzz

Do not explode. Puss puss  
Handheld pencil guss guss  
Fire on a wire sparkle, cackle  
Circle in the air fickle, twinkle

Cone like a volcano. Push up  
Fire like a fountain gush up  
Light bulbs on the trees blink blink  
Leaves in the night glisten flash

Carpet of colours whirl swirl  
Wheel on fire, whirr, whirr  
Hey, where has it gone?  
Go to the pooja room  
See vishnu's right hand –vroom, vroom

Deepavali night	Everywhere light,
on the day of new moon\	darkness gone.
Tonight is diwali	come out whole family
Share the light	make the world bright
Welcome to the festival	Let greetings be mutual
with lamps in rows	see brotherhood grows.



## Some of the sweets



**Kaju Katli**



**Barfi**



**Gulab Jamun**



**Imarti**



**Rasgulla**



**Rasmalai**



**Soan Papdi**



**Modak**



**Rabri**



**Balushahi**



**Besan Laddu**



**Shrikhand**



**Malai Khaja**



**Boondi**



**Kalakand**



**Nankhatai**

## **C45 FEEDING[1]**

Mother is there to feed  
And to care for every need  
of the baby till it can  
manage on its own.  
Oh! He's now a man!

## **FEEDING[2]**

Feed a dog, you feel happy;  
Biscuit or bun makes him lappy.



Give grass to the cow ;  
She and you are happy now.  
Sometimes give banana to chew;  
See the cow eat and mew.





Throw grain on the ground ;  
See doves mill around.  
They are not afraid of you  
Picking, cooing gutter-goo.



A little milk in the basin;  
And let your cat in;  
Milk in plate, basin or cup  
Cat grins, goes slurp, slurp.



Pat went to the horse stand  
A lump of jaggery in her hand;  
Its tongue was cool as ice  
Happiness in horse's eyes.

[ lappy- author's word –  
from lapping it up  
jaggery- more common in India  
than sugar-cube]





## C46 FLIPPERS SLIPPERS

The group goes on a trek  
With local boys as guides  
Urbanites with their fancy shoes  
Followed the guide whose  
Flip-flop slippers splashed  
mud even up to his shirt



Soon the slipper top came off  
Suppressing his laugh  
a follower asked “ how  
will you walk now?”

The local Sona was silent  
With a sharp stone  
pushed the strap back in  
Now the trekkers were silent.

Soon a stretch of shallow water  
Confronted the group  
Sona just waded through  
Putting some large stones as he went.



Please take off your shoes  
And carry with you  
Stones are sharp and narrow  
Carefully follow.



Sawaal came and quipped  
See slipper never slipped  
My feet on the move  
On my hand my shoe

*Sage Sawaal says :*

What seems to be very bad  
may truly turn out to be good.  
This simple event just says  
the rustic have their own ways.

*[ note; Sona, Sawaal are naughty intelligent native children]*

## C47 LIE LIES

Every time I tell a lie

How does mom find out?



“Because it is written in the liar’s eye”

**Eye contact** that is held for too long is usually contrived and can indicate dishonesty.



Doesn't mom say “Look at me , you lout?”  
Your lie lies in your eyes

**Eye block** – covering your eyes for a second or closing them completely is another sign that someone may be lying.



## C48 READ ALOUD

Let children read,  
if they can  
Let the elders lead ,  
in this plan.

Plan is to provide,  
a small tool and aid  
For every girl or boy  
to read, hear, enjoy.

Have you seen a mouse?  
It has a moustache.



A moustache on a cat, let me whisper;  
It has a special name it is called whisker.  
Put cat on your lap and look at its eyes  
The colour is like the colour of maize.



See an owl with big round eyes.  
Did you see a nose of small size?



Have you seen the peacock dance?  
In its fan hundred eyes at a glance.



Have you seen stripes on a zebra?  
Saying geometry is easier  
than algebra.



When looking at a dog  
One will not fail  
to see its wagging tail  
except when it is sitting like a frog.



Frog jumping have you seen?  
Frogs croaking louder than a pump  
Ten times their length they can jump  
Look at the legs and their length  
Hind legs longer gives jumping strength.



See the photo of a snake  
Do you see any ear ?  
Then how do they hear ?  
No. They can feel a small shake.



Monkey's tail is longer than its body  
Reason is known to nobody  
When I see a monkey hanging by its tail  
I can tell you the old tail's tale.



## C49 BABIES' DAY OUT

Three little children  
Set out to walk and run  
They wanted to be free  
From the rules of nursery

Just then they had had their morning food  
Briskly they explored their neighbourhood

They saw the cow and its calf  
They saw the hen and her chicken  
They saw many fish in the lake  
And from far, even a baby snake.



The humans asked the youthful others

About rigorous rules of their mothers  
Talk after “How do you do?” s  
Yielded the young animals’ views

To the query about the mother  
Reply was “We have none other”  
“Soon we will be alone  
To fend on our own  
Till then she is our sole support  
For food and shelter like a fort.”

By this time the youngest began to cry  
Since she was cold and wet, not dry

If we were in the nursery  
We won’t be this hungry  
Said simultaneously  
all the three

“ Whose idea was it to run away?  
Admit it, was it you, hey!”  
Asked each other, all three.  
Each said “not me, not me “

A senior girl who came in search  
of the babies , with a gentle touch  
gave water and fruits she brought  
“You will be hungry I thought”  
*She said .*

The senior addressed the three run-aways

“ It is time you mend your ways.

I hope a life’s lesson you all learnt

Human infant cannot be

independent.”



Little legless baby fish

Can swim as they wish



Even four-legged infant animal

can move with help minimal

Two-legged bundle of baby chick

can go and its food it can pick.

Human children! How about you?

Helpless you are until age two.

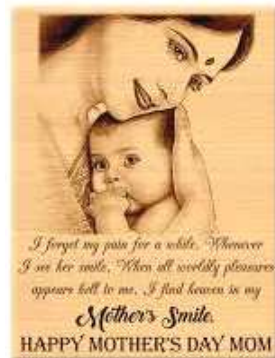


Thank God, caretakers we have

So with mothers let us behave

as nicely as we could

until we earn our own food.





## C50 THE BALL [1]

A bat and a ball  
In Munna's hand  
A shriek to call  
his kids' band.



Any road, street or lane  
A vacant site fairly plane  
Whole day the gang will have a ball  
With just a bat and a ball.

*[Munna- Hindi , small boy said with love]*

## THE BALL [2]

A bouncing boy  
Bouncing a ball  
A mother's joy  
For her to recall.



A ball is a ball  
All over the world  
No matter what you call  
it locally by any word.

*[ 'chendu' Marathi is a common word for 'ball']*

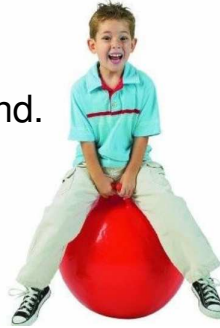
## THE BALL [3]

A ball is a sphere  
Filled full or hollow  
Rolls round everywhere  
Making Munna to follow.



When we say ball  
the word says it all;  
Something smooth and round  
inside home or on the ground.

Words, 'boy' and 'ball'  
of single syllable  
make me miserable  
as Time has taken its toll.



Let me not avoid , God forbid,  
The ball and the kid  
Even if my knee is  
affected by arthritis.



## C51 RATTLE

Today's search  
Is for a rattle  
Smooth to touch  
And not brittle

Many decades ago  
We used to walk and go  
To weekly local fairs  
Which sold all kinds of wares



Wooden rattle  
Bright hollow ball of wood

I wonder how a carver could  
Create such a cute piece  
No name, no brand, low price.

At much less price  
Just for a few *pice*  
One made of palm fronds  
An art work by skilful hands

Gently put the handle  
Of the rattle in the hand  
Which remain never idle  
See the tight grip like iron band



Does the moving hand shake the toy?  
Or does the baby shake it by will?  
Either way, smile, laugh, shout, joy  
for both young and old as I can tell

[ *pice* – old time , 1/100 th of a rupee]

## C52 DOLLS, TOYS[1]

Dolls, dolls, dolls  
The street seller calls  
Boy, girl, fat man  
Kitchenware, pot, pan



Dolls, dolls, dolls  
Vendor's voice calls  
Dolls of wood  
Sturdy and good  
Dolls of cloth and cotton  
Can wash if dirty or rotten



Try to put this fat man to sleep  
He comes to sit, bouncing with a leap  
Olden days I remember sure  
It was called a doll from Tanjore



See that colourful girl. She is  
Dancing even in gentle breeze.  
Thanks to tradition, talent and practice  
That went into making that piece.

I want to buy and carry  
The elephant with ambary  
Sturdy wooden carpentry  
From Chennapatna artistry.



Dolls, dolls, dolls  
Peddler's loud calls  
Go and get one '  
Before he is gone.

Dolls, dolls, dolls  
Clear and loud calls  
Not real it would seem  
Scenes seen in my dream



They are just memories of yore  
Not heard in our cities any more.



*[note: Tanjore -Thanjavur- a town in south India  
Channapatna – another town in South India.  
Ambary- seating arrangement on an elephant]  
[ the author apologises for lack of knowledge of the rich  
heritage of other parts of India]*

## TOYS, DOLLS [2]

Dolls, dolls, dolls  
From exhibition stalls  
Big doggies bow wow  
Cute cattles meow, meow  
Growling monkeys gur..gur  
Rolling rabbits rah rah  
Dolls, dolls, dolls  
From village fair stalls  
Dog, cat, monkey, rabbit  
But teddy bear is top hit



Teddy bear small, hold it in hand  
Teddy bear big, lift it and hug  
No need to fear ,  
Toy bear mother dear.



Teddy bear is nice  
Made of sugar and spice  
Teddy bears I have many  
They are cute company



I will always care  
For my big teddy bear  
She eats with me  
Idlee and chutney  
Even when I go to sleep  
Close to me teddy bear I keep



[ idlee, chutney- snacks to eat]

### **C53 COCONUT TREE**

*[ a child speaks to the tree ]*

Oh coconut! , Tall coconut!

You have grown so high!

Were you always going out?

Did you always like the sky?

I did not see anyone give you water

But you carry water on your head

When I am unwell or the sun is hotter

Your juice comes to my sick bed.

Go to the temple with one round coconut

Come back with two white bowls.

Mom grates , puts jaggery and honey

A simple sweet worth any money.

Entering the grove slyly like a thief

My brother knows how to make a rocket

With one finger and a long green leaf

of your tree ; nothing spent from the pocket.

From your leaves brooms thick and strong

Are made by mom and maid if I am not wrong

To sweep away stubborn slippery dirt

Before any child walks and gets hurt.



Nothing is useless nothing is waste  
Some for work some for taste  
Coconut tree , your every part  
Has the virtue of winning my heart.



## COCONUT TREE [2]

*[Child talking to the tree ]*

When there is no cow's or powder milk  
My mom uses your fruit's grated milk  
Coffee made from that, they say, is thick  
And tasty. Making also is quick

*[Listen to what my professor uncle says : ]*

Except biologists, others do not know  
Coconut milk in the culture medium  
Is great for plant cells to grow  
Just like animal cells need serum.



## C54 GOOD HABITS

‘It has to be good’  
is today’s child theme  
To me it would seem  
good as it should

It is good to **eat food**  
if you get it when you need

Eat food if you are hungry  
Share it with other hungry ones  
chapatti, rice, bread, buns  
are better than jilebi and jangri

To **be healthy** it is good  
to eat daily homely food  
Fancy food and such muck  
certainly affect your stomach  
Take pity on your belly  
Taste fancy food only occasionally



It is good to **drink water**  
filtered cold tepid or hotter  
at least two litres a day  
whether it is December or May

It is good to **read aloud** or silent  
bought borrowed or from library lent  
novels poems stories even comics  
best is to make a sensible mix.

It is good to **exercise and work out**  
for all body types lean or stout  
aerobic, yoga, jogging or gym  
regularly; not at any fancy or whim

It is good to **share and enjoy**  
if you have many chocolates  
give and eat with your mates  
See it increases the sweetness and joy

It is good to **have a hobby** any  
Have a hobby other than the mobile  
Make a habit of keeping a diary or file  
It is good to write in your own  
words, things what you have done'





## **GOOD HABITS**

Eat food	Be healthy	Drink water
Exercise	Read aloud	Share, enjoy
Have a hobby		

## C55 HOUSE AND HAIR



Which will you choose  
The mouse or the louse  
One hiding in the house  
The other at the base where hair grows

The mouse can be frightened by a cat  
It can be tricked by a trap or bait  
The louse has enough around to feed  
And make a house and breed.

When mouse becomes mice  
It can be in dozens  
When louse becomes lice  
It can be in hundreds



Lice, the pests, like to fester  
Mirthfully migrate to your sister  
So, Carefully clean the hair  
with a close-teethed comb  
unless you prefer to  
shave the head like a monk.

Chemicals work against either pest  
If scientists certify after some test  
Heed your grandma's behest  
Being clean is the best.

**Keep your house clean**  
**Keep your hair clean**

## C56 LET US GO touring

Himalaya is a mountain  
In the north, very far  
One day it is certain  
We'll go by plane and car



Chamundi *betta* is a hill  
Only 1000 steps in Mysore  
Even uncle if he has the will  
Can slowly climb, I'm sure



Delhi is too big and *bahut duur*  
We won't go without any reason  
Equally big is our Bangalore  
It is near and nice in any season.

[*Bahut duur* – very far – phrase used in Hindi proverb]

Let us go on a tour  
To see Bangalore  
Vidan souda ,Viswesvariah museum  
Lal baug, bull temple , planetarium  
Along with your cousin see Ulsoor  
Ask her if she had seen Mysore  
If not, invite her just now  
and also to come for *dasara* show.

[*dasara*- a festival of 9-10 days-

Also called *navaraatri*- Mysore is famous for]







## C57 CRANE MEME

Crane , Oh! Crane,  
Where did you learn?  
You stand, you meditate  
You know soon or late  
What you want you will get.

For saying happy  
I have the 'smilie'  
For showing patience  
Do we have signs?

So far none .  
You are the one.  
My uncle says so  
What a joke, ho ho !  
You, looking like a stick  
For a mood, get a tick  
Ha! Ha!

If it is not a stick  
But a leg, quick!  
Get up and show  
Let us all know.

*Uncle says :*

Be calm do your work, you'll get  
what you want, till then wait



Will be the message of 'stick'  
Be calm, be patient , and stick  
to your goal. Meanwhile  
unlike the crane, smile.

*Child says:*

I laughed at you ; I am sorry crane  
I tried to pull your leg; I was insane  
You full of patience, perseverance  
A symbol worth our reverence.



*[Aunty says uncle has stolen  
from the old Tamil poem:]*



*Odu meen Oda uRu meen varum aLavum  
Vaadi irukkumaam kokku]*

*[ author says: sorry I put big words in child's mouth-  
elders please simplify and explain]*

## C58 TO CRAWLERS

*[Man to his child:]*

You are found  
Lying on the ground  
Always supine or prone  
Though you have grown  
to two feet in length  
and perhaps in strength  
It is time to get up  
Let me see if I can help

Hands and knees on the floor  
You now need support of four  
Will you get up and stand  
If I strongly held your hand ?



I wish you can soon get up  
And stand on two feet of yours  
Child of human! Aren't you fed up  
Crawling, like a monkey, on all fours?

Hold on to my hand like this  
And go left, right, forward  
Don't worry, if a step, you miss  
But don't lean or fall backward



*[Mother comes:]*

Oho, Munna's father!  
Why do you bother?

In a few month's time  
He will mimic and mime  
Your drunken tottering gait  
You just have to wait



Fathers usually do not care  
Or for any big event unaware  
When once they come to see  
they unnecessarily worry.

What do even dutiful fathers know  
Have they seen any child grow ?  
From sitting to creep and crawl  
Munna has gone through it all

Now comes dad and wants  
The child to walk ; and he taunts  
Munna who is not yet two  
Soon will be a toddler too



## **C59 BEACH**

The beach in Nice  
They say is nice  
Any sand is good .  
If you have never stood  
On a sandy beach  
It's the next place to reach.



## C60 SAND IN HAND

Sand in hand  
build something grand  
Pyramids and castles  
Houses without hassles

Long long roads  
Temples with gods  
Mountains in a row  
Grass on trees that grow



Tiny hands can make  
many shapes and break  
Create and or destroy  
is all game like toy  
Let no one chide  
an imaginative child

Set a child in the midst of sand and rest  
Come and see creative art at its best.





## C61 SAND [1]

Seaside sand and beach  
For many it is out of reach  
But if you live near the sea  
Take all the children and me.

Walk on sand; wade in water;  
Sit on sand; stand in water.

Let waves wash your feet  
Sandy, salty water but neat ;  
Waves want to play  
Touch you and go away.

Don't chase the tide  
Some waves are naughty  
Somewhere they hide  
Suddenly come, high and mighty.

Draw smilies on the wet shore  
Let waves come and erase. More  
You can draw all along sand  
Let waves come hand in hand.

Beach is full of sand  
Let Sonu take it in her hand  
Don't stop yourself or children  
From touching sand which is fun.

[ note: smily- smilies – drawings usually  
made by children]



## C62 SAND [2]

Let elders join  
in 'hide-a coin'  
Needs sand a basinful  
stealing that is not sinful

Sand box in pre-school  
whose idea, quite cool.  
Jump into the sand-pit  
stand barefoot or just sit .

Plastic water pool  
is as fun and as cool  
As sand pit; jump in it;  
wade barefoot or just sit.

Beach, sand, water  
found plenty in nature  
Fun for children is free  
Like a swing on a tree.



### C63 [THE] CROW

*[ the child speaker may not know Tamil Thirukkural  
But the author of the poem knows ]*

Uncle took a ball of cooked rice  
Went to the terrace, kept on a precipice  
In his hoarse voice called ka..ka thrice  
Ritual or not feeding birds is nice.

From nowhere, oh friendly crow, I see you come  
First to arrive was you and then some  
                    of your kith and kin  
                    Now begins the din

I can hear your kaav..kaavs clear  
Did you say what I guessed you said  
**“Ye all crows, ye all hear me, hear  
A ball of rice is here, near me, here.**

Can I call you chief crower ?  
Were you once a town crier?  
Hey, crow! Did you cry “hear me?  
What did I find? Come near and see”

*GENERAL*

Crow’s call invites all of kin  
No selfish stealth, personal gain  
                    “Come and share  
                    Enough to spare”

I like the crow , the crier  
That says “the more the merrier’

[ note ; crower- author’s word – doer noun]



*Thirukkural*

*Kaakai karavaa karaindu uNNum aakkamum*

*Anna neerarke uLa.*

*The crow without hiding call all and eats. Wealth*

*Stays with such persons.*

## C64 “KEEP THIS PLACE .. LEAN”

Let me do something new  
Every day, from today.

“Keep this place clean”  
Is a universal statement  
Quite often it is seen  
Near a dirty pavement.

On the footpath where children walk  
I sat with a piece of chalk;  
In capital letters I wrote  
this simple meaningful note.

I just watched from my window  
The people walking by;  
Nothing happened until now,  
No one stopped, girl or guy.

Time for primary classes to end  
Chirping, jumping children run.  
Some of the tiny tots bend,  
They thought reading this was fun.

“Wrong, wrong “cries one  
Another finds a bit of chalk  
I purposely left on the walk,  
“See, see now it is done “

The missing 'C' was supplied  
On the last word by the bold child.  
Only a child seemed to dare  
To say the emperor was bare;

***Curious childhood is gone  
As time passes on.  
Growing up makes one mature  
And kills the senses given by nature.***

[True event written in verse]



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## C65 PARK SCENE

Let us go to the park  
Come back before it is dark  
We can walk to the park  
We can walk thro' the park

We can sit and rest  
On the grass is the best  
But first see it is not wet

Alone or together run, run  
Or catch those who run  
Either way it is fun  
for both mom and the young one.



See swing going up and down  
Smoothly in an upward looking arc  
See-saw too goes up and down  
Like a clock tic-toc . tic-toc





Climb the steps of the ladder slow  
Whirr! Down the slide you go  
Careful, there are other children below  
Up, down. Umpteen times. Good show.

Turn-table turns, turns;  
Child to push with foot learns ;  
For speed, mom, you too push  
Everyone glad, gleeful, *khush*. [khush- Hindi- happy]



## ***C66 , GR19    PLAY ON THE WORD ‘play’***

1. We are the students    who have come to play  
We like to play -    play the game of -----xx--

Put xx =    cricket, volleyball, basketball.

Football. Badminton

Tennis, khokho, kabaddi.

*[all Action ]*

2. We are the students    who have come to play  
We like to play -    play on the -----yy----

Put yy=    violin, veena. tabla, drum,  
guitar, keyboard, flute,    any other

*[all Action and sound]*

[Copy the tune of    “ *we are the school girls who  
are camping out*”]



## C67 SKILLED[!] LITTLE BOY

They declared a contest  
To identify and test  
The person with great skill  
As well as a strong will.

They gave many titles to pick  
What was my choice of topic ?  
I chose 'killing time' as the theme  
Since I can win alone or as a team.

Kill time by counting sheep  
Before sleep  
Pass time watching sit-com  
Eating popcorn  
Waste time playing patience  
More than once



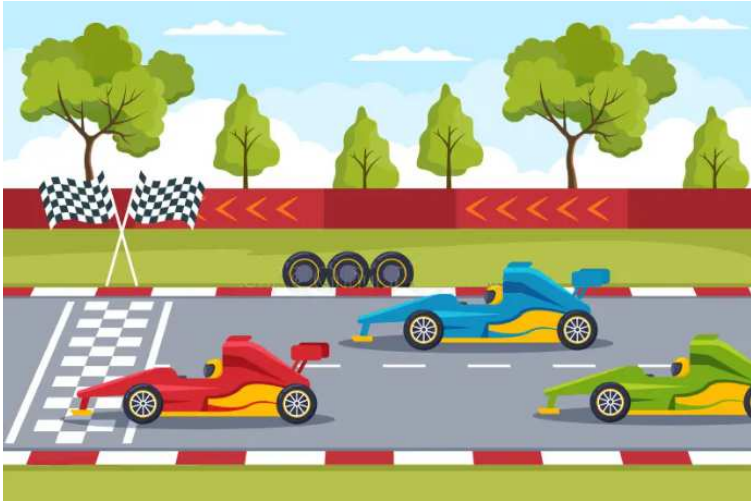
Spend time narrating stories  
Of old memories.  
All these ideas the jury heard  
And then said

None of these will do .  
Killer of time is not you  
For, the title is already won  
By the little boy who has done



The great feat  
To soundly beat

All other players in the game  
On his mobile, car race done  
One thousand times the same  
race , winning not even one.



## C68 TEEN GAMES

IT IS FUN TO be at a distance  
And watch what teens invent

Does a teacher teach? Yes  
Does a preacher preach? Yes  
Does a driver drive? Yes  
Does a prayer pray? I don't know

Now we will play *anthakshari*.  
A river does not rive. It flows.  
A flower does not flow. It blooms.  
A bloomer does not bloom. It makes mistakes

Butter does not butt. It cooks .  
A cooker does not cook. It whistles  
A whistler does not whistle. He discloses

Does a letter let something? No  
Does a gutter gut? No  
Does a crater crate? No

When I see the games teens invent  
It seems to me that they go to a convent  
My teacher sister says, no  
What they do they know

See first set was all yes reply  
Doer noun ending with ..er  
Not always. Some are  
Odd and funny words worth  
A game for fun and mirth.

*[Notes: convent school - schools in India  
having better level of English since  
traditionally their medium of instruction was English  
anthakshari – game in which the last letter or word is  
used by the next person to start his word, sentence or  
song]*



## C69 WIND [PARODY]

Who can stop the wind?  
Neither you nor I  
To the query put your mind  
Ask yourself, why should I try?

Who can stop the wind?  
Neither I nor you  
On further thinking you will find  
" Why stop, let it pass through"

Who can stop the wind?  
Neither you, I nor anyone  
Even if it is not mild and kind  
Wait, soon it will be gone.

[ the original poem: *Who Has Seen the Wind?* Christina Rossetti - 1830-1894]

*Who has seen the wind?  
Neither I nor you.  
But when the leaves hang trembling,  
The wind is passing through.*

*Who has seen the wind?  
Neither you nor I.  
But when the trees bow down their heads,  
The wind is passing by.]*





## C70 WINDOWS [1]

Moving air is wind  
welcome the air in  
Keep open the window  
feel the wind ..oh!

Let hot air get out  
let cool air come inside  
Let not windows be shut  
lucky , in India , we reside.

Go run and occupy  
window seat in train  
Easy from vendors to buy  
see scenery , new terrain

From window never put  
hand or head out  
No pouring water or spit  
no one should be hurt

Throw nothing out of the window or spit  
Such habit everyone must quit  
The habit is as ugly as dirt  
What if some walker gets hurt?

Wind the window down  
while driving out of town  
Let the rustic air rush in  
let good feeling gush in



## C71 WINDOW [2]

Let the wind blow  
helping the air flow  
Hope the incoming air is fresh  
Add fragrance to us and refresh  
Keep your window to the world open  
With new ideas, let your mind sharpen

Let new ideas flow  
helping me to grow  
Hope the incoming thoughts are better  
Than what I've, in both spirit and letter.

Fresh air comes in ; good!  
For our lungs it is food  
Good air comes with good smell  
***Breathe deeply and feel well***



## C72 MY VILLAGE

**Being a child in my village  
Was not just life but a privilege**

No one went hungry  
without morning *naashta*

At home eat *idli*  
or *idiappam* alias pasta

[*naashta*- snack, *tiffin* *Idli*, *idiappam*- names of snacks]

From any other house in the street  
Any other child whom you meet  
is a friend, So you two eat  
at a third house where great  
is the grandma as well as the eats .



**Being a child in my village  
Was not just life but a privilege**  
When a holiday is declared suddenly\  
We didn't come home and sit idly  
Go to the garden grove of the *zamindar*

Whose farmhouse was not far  
Make the pumpset on  
Meet the mighty rain head-on  
No sprinkle; solid shower was fun  
Clothes can dry in the southern sun.  
Or go to the local water-lift which is ready  
Pour water on yourself and buddy  
*[ zamindar- landlord, rich man]*



In any landlord's house any function  
It is assumed , needed no invitation  
All of us will be there at the venue  
suggesting items for the menu

Children's line for the feast  
will be long but all will have seat  
having eaten each will have a package  
for those who couldn't come due to old age

Ladies planning to go to town  
will make the news known  
to us children who can be  
used for errands and also company

We too would be willing and happy  
since we eat at a hotel and see a movie.



**Being a child in my village  
Was not just life but a privilege**

No difference among children  
But when it came to gender  
Each will have their own fun  
Since group games will differ.  
Nevertheless village life was a privilege  
For boys or girls of tender age.



Whether villages and life there  
Are the same as before or not  
When I talk to you from my easy chair  
Memories come which I never forgot.

## C73 OUTSIDE AIISH

SH is speech and hearing  
HH is hard of hearing  
Or hearing handicapped.

A child is smiling  
A vehicle's horn is blaring  
The lady with the child  
must be fit and alert  
And certainly not another HH  
Am I asking for too much?



No. Not at all if HH were rare  
But if it is hereditary, genetic  
And thanks to parents, one or pair  
Even simple tasks will be frenetic  
Who will educate the horn- blower  
And ask him to stop and go slower?

[ note: AIISH .- All India Institute Of Speech And Hearing ]



## **C74 OFF-LOADED- WHEN?**

I took his load  
He happily ran ahead.  
I couldn't keep up .  
Or didn't I want to?  
So, I gave him half his load.  
Even that was enough to make him stoop.  
Now,  
Equal we are in load and stride and in slow  
'progress!'  
Gone is his gambol  
Gone is his childhood.  
Alas! If only I could get  
The load off both of us,  
We may even try a little  
Hopping and jumping together.  
But even if I could, I dare not to  
Get the load off both of us.

Free of the load  
We may hop and jump  
We may stand and stare  
Walk free, think free, live free  
But that will not be called  
academic or any kind of achievement.



Some day, even if I did dare  
To get the load off both of us  
Who knows?

Both of us may be **off-loaded** by the system  
which is heavily loaded  
against non-achievers.



## C75 STARS, CLOUDS AND TRICKS

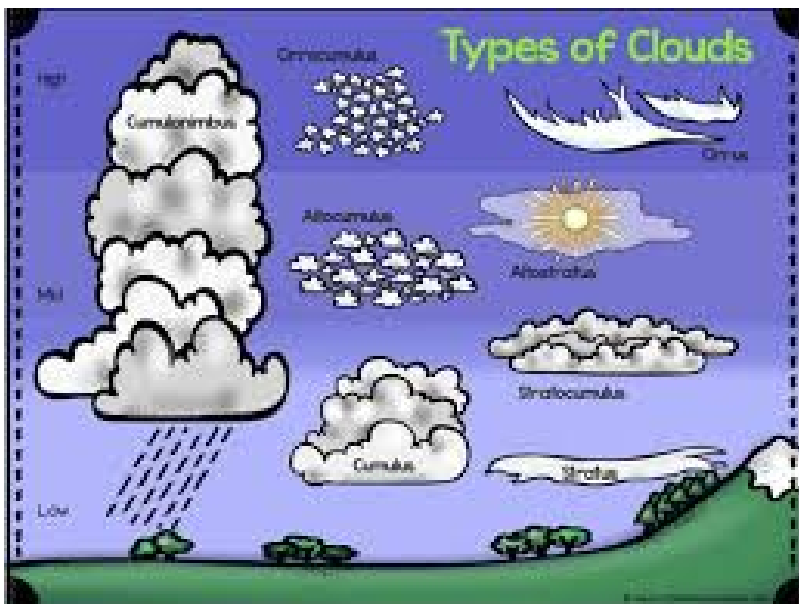
Have you ever lain supine



And looked up at the open sky?  
If you do, you will find  
Strange images which float or fly.

Were these images always present?  
Or do they get formed as I lie  
Down here to relax and rest ?  
Are they real or just illusion and lie ?

Are the clouds treating me as a toy  
Playing tricks on me from up on high  
As if dragged by a kite -flying boy  
I can't run and catch ,  
Since they are high up on the sky.



## C76 MOON MY FRIEND

[CHILD TO THE MOON]



O moon! Are you my friend?  
When I walk, you follow  
You follow if I am slow  
When I run you too run

Sometimes I am fast  
Yet you are not lost  
When I sit and look up  
You too stroll down and up

I just fell down , why?  
I was looking at the sky

Oops! said the moon and stopped  
To look down he stooped  
He cannot come down to pick me up  
He has to be up above  
to be visible to all the children of the earth

## C77 O! CHANDRA, SKY CHANDRA!

[GRANDMA TO THE MOON]

O Chandra sky Chandra  
This is Chandra my Chandra  
My grandson smiles, he is bright;  
You too are bright, why won't you smile?

You are jealous, O! Chandra of the sky,  
of my little one, eying him on the sly.

Because, o full moon! You know  
That my grandchild will grow  
While you will wane in a fortnight  
Making the sky dark only with starlight

Whether you smile or not  
Your strength you never forgot  
To recover with strong will  
To slowly grow full from nil.



He was named Chandra after you  
For your cyclic life and skill  
Even on a new moon day you knew  
“I will bounce back to become full”

When I'm gone you 'll be there  
Teach my Chandra in his dark hour  
To slowly grow and never forego the fight  
That one day will be his , full and bright.



## C78 SUMMER

Summer in south India is hot  
Except for foreigners, locals do not  
stir out or reach the beach at noon.  
Even if they go in the morn return soon.

River bath is cool, not sun-bathing  
Sitting in the shade with juice is soothing

It is tough for us, parents say ,  
To care for children in the month of May

Store plenty of buttermilk during the day  
To keep dehydration and diseases away



## C79 SUMMER AND MONSOON

The sun is fun for the western world  
They can even slumber  
On the beach in summer

Heat in Indian summer is too much  
Even for us to bear it as such  
If you have not heard of sun stroke  
Come to the south in May and look

Summer sun or monsoon rain  
They are with us  
as tropical life's plus

We really have no reason  
To avoid or hate any season

Our region's sunshine  
Is like, after 8 comes nine

So too, we like the monsoon rain  
Even if it pours again and again

When it is mild rain  
Find a tree like the banyan  
Under whose shade  
A camp can be made.





When it is hot sun at noon  
Get to the banyan tree soon  
where men cattle any can rest  
until afternoon heat is less



When it is hot don't be fussy  
Mom is ready with buttermilk and lassi  
Just wait till it becomes cool  
inside the house or at school



Our elders lived under the sun  
I will also learn, be a true son  
We all venerate our guruji  
who said: "Surya is our energy."

*[notes:*

*Surya – the sun*

*Buttermilk- diluted curd usually with salt*

*Lassi - diluted curd sweetened with sugar]*

## C80 WINTER

Winter is cold in Jan  
But in daytime it is nice  
Children in cold countries can  
Go play in snow and ice

Ice I have once seen  
After it rained stones of hails  
Snow it was on TV screen  
Whenever reception fails

But in winter we can  
Go out, walk in the sun  
Primary schools also plan  
Outdoor classes which is fun

Winter vegetables are fresh  
Carrots, beans, peas, radish  
All tender, plenty and heaps  
Farmers selling them cheap



Cut and eat them raw  
Tasty natural salad  
One old man I saw  
Ate away half his head load  
Three months around December  
In India it is time to travel

Tourists carry mementos to remember  
We sure looked after our guests very well

Hot tea brewing in a pot  
Covered fully by a tea-cosy  
We drink shamelessly a lot  
Feel the insides warm and cosy



Men sat around a fire  
Warming their toes and fingers  
As flames reach higher  
They attract dancers and singers



Winter is fun also indoor  
*Rotis and naans* from *tandoor*

Butter melts on *masala dosa*

Guests bite into *pakora and samosa*

[ *all names of snacks* ]



Of course winter wind is chill

We in the south can manage it still

Scarf, muffler, cap, shawl

Woollen items come out all

Parents are great

They fill my plate

With *mutter* and butter

With roti and *boti*

With rice and spice

[ *mutter- peas*     *Boti- a crisp fried snack* ]

Parents are great

When I felt cold and shivered

They keep me warm and covered

## C81 MONSOON IN MYSORE

Gentle rainfall

is liked by us all

Rain, rain don't go

we want to get wet so

Raindrops fall in a line like a thread

Wind splashes it on me, and I am afraid

Raindrops on the tin roof

Compose a rhythmic song

Villain wind blowing – poof

And see who are coming along

Here comes lightning- flash, flash

Don't look, it is frightening –flash

Soon comes the thunder, boom, boom

It is shaking the ground under- boom

Splash, flash, boom, vroom

Light and sound! What a show!

What was the result , do you know?

All children pulled into the hall

Closed were windows, vents all

Grandpa saying *gayatri* mantra

No one making exit or entra

Bundled safely was the crying baby

Into the cot smelling of *Nilgiri*

[ notes: mantra- chant by Hindus  
Entra- short form for entrance  
Nilgiri- eucalyptus oil – used for cold ]

We all waited for the rain to stop  
For urgent needs we have the corner shop  
After a severe thunderstorm in Mysore  
the roads would be blocked , I am sure

The whole town without power  
Fallen branches or full trees all over  
Among the crowd and chaos I could  
see a silver lining in the dark cloud

Local poor get free firewood  
for heating *handas* of hot water  
Self-sustaining is this neighbourhood  
picking up pieces after a minor disaster

[ note: *handa*- vessel for heating water for bath ]

Thunderstorm and heavy rain are no fun  
Soon we welcome the warmth-giving sun  
After a bad event, children learn  
early in life to expect a good turn

Except at times when it becomes wild  
rain in Mysore is always mild  
But that day teaches us not to worry  
life is not always hunky –dory.



*handa- vessel for  
heating water for bath*



## C82 FROG IN THE WELL, SICK

A frog in the well  
Became quite unwell  
As she lay sick  
She made some music  
Went cric- crock cric crock  
Like the clock- tic tock tic tock  
  
Doctor frog came and saw  
‘Open your mouth and say aah!’”

“It is red and swollen  
Under the tongue keep this fern  
as you lie, to the left turn  
And be so till I return “

When the good doc came back  
It was still cric crock cric crock  
“Why? Did you not get back your voice?”  
“Yes I did. But it feels nice to make noise”

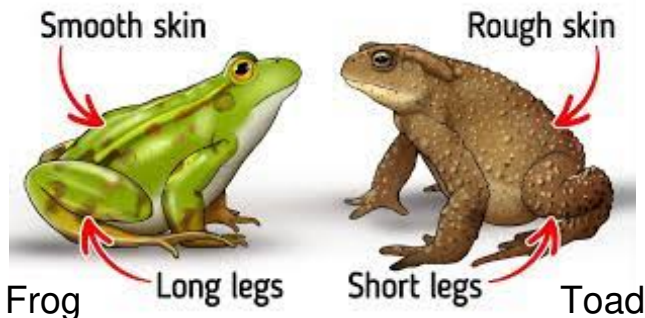




## C82 TOAD IN THE WELL, UNWELL

A toad in the well  
Became quite unwell  
Yelled and made terrible din  
Like rain on a roof of tin  
Crawk croak ; crawk croak  
Each yell like a hammer stroke

Doctor frog came and saw  
‘Open your mouth and say aah!’  
” Your throat is swollen and red  
You should be in your bed  
“How long doctor?”  
“Until the day after;  
Don’t worry, time will fly”  
“Fly! Can I catch as I lie?”  
“No. No non-veg; To your left you turn  
And under the tongue keep this fern “



### **C83 TADPOLES IN TROUBLE**

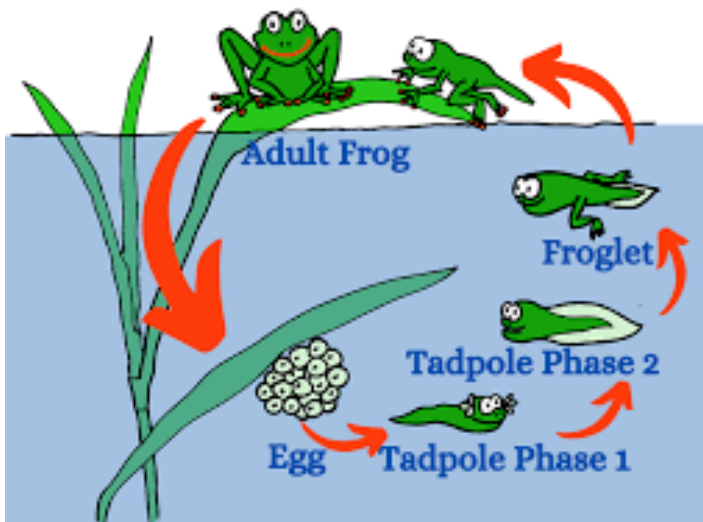
One hundred tadpoles in the well  
together started to yell  
our mouths are swollen  
We can't eat even pollen  
How can we survive?  
We need fungi and algae.

Surgeon frog was summoned  
He came, saw, was stunned  
To find the reason for their ache  
Forked tongues like that of a snake  
Any deformity in childhood is a curse  
When you grow up it will become worse  
I can perform an operation  
But I need your mother's permission.

When the mother who had complained  
came, to her the surgeon explained  
“ I see in all the hundred of your product  
I diagnose the same congenital defect  
I can cure if you the mother does not object  
All of you children, hear!  
Other tadpoles too don't fear  
You have yet to grow feet

If I cut your tongue neat  
It will grow along with the rest  
So surgery now is the best

You are young you have good chance  
“Thank you doctor, thanks in advance “  
Mother and children said in unison  
The well is being readied for the operation.



## C85 RIDDLES

1. The first letter of my name is S  
I am round in shape  
I give you heat and light      Who am I?  
*[ from a school test, 5th std, Karnataka]*

2. My first letter is O  
My friend's is M  
We grow on trees      Who are we?  
*[ from a school test, 5th std, Karnataka]*

3. It is from Kashmir.  
Its house is on a tree.  
Name starts with A      What is it?

4. A long blue saree  
Alas! A lot of holes  
Holes are bright and shining  
The horizon is its lining  
*[ a traditional riddle in all Indian languages]*

5. It has four legs and a back  
You can comfortably sit on it . What is it?  
*[ clue: if no back it will be a "stool"]*

6. When mother stands it is not there.  
When she sits it comes.  
A baby can sleep in it ?



*[Answers :6 pal   5 riahc   4 yks eht   3 elppa  
2 ognam, egnaro   1 nus eht]*

Everyone knows this :  
Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall;  
All the king's horses and all the king's men  
Couldn't put Humpty together again.

Who is Humpty Dumpty?



## MORE RIDDLES

**I'm orange, I wear a green hat and I sound like a parrot. What am I? Ans:..CARROT**

**What has hands, but can't clap? Ans: A clock**

*YOU CAN MAKE MANY SUCH RIDDLES YOURSELF ON CLOCK ITSELF*

### **SIMILAR OTHER PAIRS :**

*EYE AND NEEDLE   EAR AND CORN   MOUTH AND RIVER  
RUN AND WATER   TEETH AND COMB   LEGS AND TABLE  
MANY BASED ON DICTIONARY*

**How can you make seven even? Ans: Remove s**  
*[REAL ANS IS ADD OR SUBTRACT 1 [ONE]*

**What goes up but never comes down? Ans: Your age**

*SUNDAY MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS ETC. REGULARLY  
PUBLISH RIDDLES ALONG WITH CROSSWORD, SUDOKU ETC.  
OF COURSE, THE WEB HAS MANY. MY [THE AUHOR'S]  
SUGGESTION:  
WRITE YOUR OWN –IF YOU TELL 10 BITS TO 10 PERSONS  
ONE [PERSON] MAY LIKE ONE [ITEM] HE OR SHE IS YOUR  
TRUE FRIEND.*

## C86 VIPs ON THE STAGE

Listen children  
A group is singing  
It is a *raga*; it is a tune ;  
It is by a *dasa*; it is a poem.

Listen to the group  
Synchronously singing  
You can see them you can hear them  
They cannot see you or one another  
Because they are all blind.

At the end. Clap and applaud  
Stand up and applaud  
They can't see  
But they can hear  
So, applaud, clap, cheer

We can see, hear and speak  
Can we sing/? Why ask let us try  
Let us learn from  
The great group of VI singers

[ VIP- visually impaired persons ]

Sawaal asks; how about HH?  
Sonu: what is HH?  
Don't you know – it is hearing handicap  
[Uncle said :]

Watch the stage children  
A group is dancing  
It is classical; it is spiritual ;  
It is by a *dasa*; it is a poem.



Watch the group  
Synchronous steps  
You can see them you can hear them  
They cannot hear you or the music  
Because they are all deaf



At the end. clap and applaud  
Stand up and applaud

They can't hear  
But they can see  
So, applaud, clap, cheer

We can see, hear and speak  
Can we sing? Dance? Why ask let us try.  
Let us learn from  
The great group of  
VI singers HH dancers  
*[ Sonu, Sawaal – children  
Sawaal is elder- fond of asking questions]  
DASA- a pious , wise person  
HH- hearing handicapped]*



**THE 8TH ANNUAL BAY AREA INTERNATIONAL DEAF DANCE FESTIVAL**

**COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS DAY 1: FRIDAY, AUGUST 14**

**10-11 AM PST DANCE BY HEART**  
WITH TUNE OF WOMEN CLASSICAL AND FOLK MUSIC

**11 AM - 12 PM PST INTRODUCTION TO FLAMENCO**

**SHRUTI KULKAR AND MEDHA DIVVEDGI (INDIA)**

**MIT SPECKTOR (USA)**

**LIVE** [WWW.REALURBANJAZZDANCE.COM](http://WWW.REALURBANJAZZDANCE.COM) | [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/URBANJAZZDANCE](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/URBANJAZZDANCE) | #BAIDDF2020



## CA7 TELUGU LULLABY

**Chandamaama Raave**

**Come Sweet Moon**

Chandamaama raave, jaabilli raave  
Kondekki raave, koti poolu theve.  
Bandekki raave, banti poolu theve  
Theru meeda raave, thene pattu theve.  
Pallaki lo raave paalu perugu theve  
Parugetti raave, panasa pandu theve.  
Naa maata vinave, nattinta pettave  
Annee theve abbayiki iyyave!

Come moon, come sweet moon  
Come over the hill, bring a million flowers.  
Come on a chariot, bring a bunch of Marigolds  
Come over the brook, bring a comb of honey.  
Come on a palanquin, bring milk and curd  
Come on running, bring a Jackfruit.  
Now listen to me and keep them here right  
Bring them all for  
baby's delight!

Come down moon come gracefully and soon  
Come over the hill bring what you will  
Come by a coach bring a beautiful broach  
Come by the river carry honey and sugar  
Come by palanquin bring a biscuit tin  
Now you me hear do this all for dear  
Bouncy baby's sake don't forget birthday cake.

Our readers will know that the initial word of each line rhyming is the hall mark of poetry in south Indian languages. In many stanzas alliteration [ i.e. same letter or sound ] in each line is also used to enhance the quality of the poems. If the poem is mainly meant for singing [or reading and listening] line-ending rhyme is preferred and is very effective. [persons fond of '*Kavi sammelans*' and *Mushairas*' will agree.]

Here the structure [i.e. syntax] of Telugu language helps in final rhyming. In other words the verb [predicate] coming at the end of a sentence as per grammar structure helps to make rhymes. Observe '*raave*' *theve*'

The poet additionally used alliteration in each line.

We [this author] have used end-of-the foot rhyme. Instead of exact translation of each word the general theme of the lullaby is maintained. Viz. The moon is asked to bring child-related objects.

OF COURSE, SING, DANCE C86 NO MATTER  
DONKEY'S VOICE OR MONKEY'S STEPS

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We humbly request ALL the elders\_in the family\_to learn, teach, play\_ with the children [ in your own family OR from the neighbourhood ]. This also means you allow your children and others let their children mix, play, have fun , interact.

ANTHAKSHARI C68, RUN CATCH, JUMP,  
FLIP [ IF POSSIBLE AND WITH PRECAUTIONS].,  
MOCK FIGHT , PILLOW FIGHT, GAMES IN THE PARK,  
HIDE AND SEEK, RIDE AN ELDER,  
HORSE RIDE ON A STICK, HIDE A COIN IN  
SAND,MIME, MIMIC SOUNDS [OF ANIMALS BIRDS] ,  
HOP CATCH, BALL GAMES, RIDDLES,  
ANY SIMPLE BOARD GAMES, TIC-TAC-TOE-,  
SCISSORS-STONE-PAPER, SIMPLE RACE, PICK A  
LETTER [ FROM AN ADVT OR A PAGE],  
DRAW WHAT YOU LIKE [STARTING WITH A LINE,  
CIRCLE, TRIANGLE, SQUARE ....]

IN SHORT KEEP YOURSELF AND CHILDREN  
AWAY FROM ADDICTIVE SMART PHONE  
HABITS AND HAVE FUN