FINGERPLAY: Mr. Wiggle + Mr. Waggle

The basic story goes like this:

Once upon a time there were two friends. Their names were Mr Wiggle and Mr Waggle.

Mr Wiggle lived on this hill over here (pop!) and Mr Waggle lived on this hill over here (pop!). One day Mr Wiggle decided to visit Mr Waggle. He opened his door (pop!), came outside (pop!) and closed the door (pop!).

Then he went: Down the hill and up the hill, down the hill and up the hill, down the hill and up the hill ... until he came to Mr Waggle’s house. He knocked on Mr Waggle’s door.

Knock! Knock! Knock! “Hello! Mr Waggle! Are you home? It’s Mr Wiggle!”

Mr Waggle opened his door (pop!), came outside (pop!) and closed his door (pop!). “Oh! Hello Mr Wiggle! Do come in, you must be tired after your walk. Let’s have a cup of tea.”

So Mr Waggle opened his door (pop!), they went inside (pop!) and closed the door (pop!). Mr Wiggle and Mr Waggle shared a pot of tea and ate some scones together. When they were finished it was time for Mr Wiggle to go home.

Mr Waggle opened his door (pop!), they came outside (pop!) and he closed his door (pop!). “Goodbye Mr Wiggle, thank you for visiting me! Do come again soon!” “Goodbye Mr Waggle, thank you for the cup of tea and scones”.
Mr Wiggle went down the hill and up the hill, down the hill and up the hill, down the hill and up the hill ... until he came to his home.

They each opened their doors (pop!), waved goodbye to each other (*), went inside (pop!) and closed their doors (pop!).

And the sun went down, and the moon came up, and that was the end of another day!

I love this story because in it so much happens. First of all there is the beginning and the ending: they are always the same. As are the ‘pops’. Believe me when I tell you that the children will notice if you forget a pop, or if you pop in the wrong place! These are the fun elements that attract children to the story. You say whatever you like in between, so long as the beginning, the end and the pops are always there. When I have told this story, depending upon the age of the audience and the situation, Mr Wiggle and Mr Waggle have gone swimming, fishing, boating (lost at sea and washed up on a deserted island), jungle exploring, skateboarding, driving, bicycle riding (down those hills!), cooking and picnicking. They have hung out the washing, washed dishes, tidied their rooms (because they kept losing things in them) and have ended up in hospital with broken bones many times from their adventures!

With this story you can:

• Catch the attention of any child of any age,
• Explore ranges of voice, using sound effects, high and low pitch, exaggerated tones. Be free!
• Throw in little songs they might know (‘row, row, row your boat’ came in when they were on the sea) - Run freely with your imagination, your child’s suggestions, or even just tell the story of your child’s day,
• Use Mr Wiggle and Mr Waggle to work through worries or fears in a humorous way,
• Give your child a settling strategy: if they are old enough, ask them to tell you a Mr Wiggle and Mr Waggle story while you are driving the car, making dinner, waiting for playgroup to begin ...

And the best thing about it is at the end of the day, it all comes good again. They always make it home for dinner and bed, the sun always goes down and the moon always comes up again. The world is good. After all, that is the message we want to pass on to our children.