

## Norwegian and Australian Clapping Rhymes

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The review of Una Margrét Jónsdóttir's *Allir í leik* in this issue of *Play and Folklore* has prompted me to look again at a DVD of Norwegian clapping games sent to me some time ago by Thor Gunnar Norås, administrator of the Norwegian Documentation Center for Children's Culture in Stavanger.

While watching the children clapping, chanting and singing it was possible to identify similarities between the Norwegian games and clapping rhymes collected at Preston West Primary School, Melbourne in 2005. Here are five rhymes for comparison. Thanks to Thor for providing the words of the Norwegian rhymes.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA	STAVANGER, NORWAY
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Si. si, si, Si. si, sowere were, Mini mini ukka, Mini mini were were. Oom-chukka oom-chukka oom-chukka dess</p> <p>Si. si, si, Si. si, sowere were, Mini mini ukka, Mini mini were were, Mini mini ukka, Mini mini were were. Oom-chukka oom-chukka oom-chukka dess</p> <p>This game is played the same way as the Norwegian version</p>	<p>Dam, dam, dea, Dam, dam, weah, weah, Sissy dea, sissy weah, weah, Ini mini yakka, Ini mini weah, weah, Ini mini yakka, Ini mini weah, weah. Kokobass, kokobass, kokobass, kiss!</p> <p>This rhyme is always repeated – a clapping song the first time and a counting-out rhyme second. Two of the lines are repeated in the counting-out rhyme.</p> <p>When the clapping song is finished, one player counts on each hand while saying the rhyme. The last hand touched is put behind the back, and that player must only use one hand to do the clapping rhyme next time. When counting-out, players also count the empty space where their counting-out hand would be.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>My Auntie Anna plays the pianna, Twenty-four hours a day.....SPLIT!</p> <p>On 'Split!' players jump their feet apart. Rhyme and action are repeated until one player topples over.</p>	<p>My aunt Bianco plays the piano Fifty-five and does she say.....STAY!</p> <p>Played the same way.</p>

## MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

3

1, 2, 3, HIT IT!  
That's the way, uh-huh uh-huh  
I like it, uh-huh uh-huh,  
That's the way, uh-huh uh-huh  
I like it, uh-huh uh-huh,  
Truth, love, peace, full stop!

Based on the words of a 1975 pop song:  
'That's the Way I Like It' by KC & The  
Sunshine Band.

4

Under the bambush and under the tree,  
Boom boom boom  
True love to you my darling, true love to me,  
Boom boom boom  
When we get married, we'll start a family  
Boom boom boom  
Under the bambush and under the tree.

This rhyme sometimes concludes after  
'start a family' - 'a boy for you and a girl  
for me, Dah diddley ah dah...sexy!'

5

My mummy is a baker,  
Yummy yummy, fat tummy,  
(rub tummy)

My father is a dustbin man,  
Poo-poo-pooey, poo-poo-pooey,  
(hold nose)

My sister is a show-off,  
Sh-sh-show-off, sh-sh-show-off  
(twirling fingers around in hair),

My brother is a cowboy...  
Turn around, touch the ground, FREEZE!  
(do the actions then point fingers like pistols)

The children sing each line once, while the  
Norwegian version is longer and more like  
'When Suzy Was a Baby' in structure.



## STAVANGER, NORWAY

ABC, Honey,  
That's the way, aha, aha  
I like it, aha, aha.  
That's the way, aha, aha  
I like it, aha, aha.  
Scoobi, scoobi,  
Hanna dass.

Anne Liane,  
Anne, my cheese, bom bom bom,  
Anne, I love you darling,  
One for me,  
One for you.  
I love mammy,  
I love daddy,  
Ooh, aah, cha cha cha,  
Anne Liane,  
Kiss me goodbye.

Min far han er en søppelmann,  
En søppelmann, en søppelmann,  
Min far han er en søppelmann,  
Og vet du hva han sa?  
Æsj, æsj.  
(hold nose)

Min mor hun er en baker,  
En baker, en baker,  
Min mor hun er en baker,  
Og vet du hva hun sa?  
Æsj, æsj, nam, nam.  
(hold nose, rub tummy)  
  
Min søster er ei jåle,  
Ei jåle, ei jåle,  
Min søster er ei jåle,  
Og vet du hva hun sa?  
Æsj, æsj, nam, nam, krølle, krølle.  
(hold nose, rub tummy, make 'curling'  
movements with hair)

Min bror han er en cowboy,  
En cowboy, en cowboy,  
Min bror han er en cowboy,  
Og vet du hva han sa?  
Æsj, æsj, nam, nam, krølle, krølle, pang, pang.  
(hold nose, rub tummy, make 'curling'  
movements with hair, make 'shooting'  
movements with fingers)

Men jeg er bare en skrikunge,  
En skrikunge, en skrikunge,  
Men jeg er bare en skrikunge,  
Og vet du hva jeg sa?  
Æsj, æsj, nam, nam, krølle, krølle, pang, pang,  
Ææh!  
(hold nose, rub tummy, make 'curling' movements,  
point fingers like pistols, make a baby crying sound)