The Honeybee in Winter

Into their hives the busy bees crawl.          Make ten fingers walk
Into the ant hills go ants one and all.      Continue same motion
The brown caterpillars have hidden their heads. Put one fist under opposite arm
They spin silk cocoons for their snug little beds. Motion of spinning
The squirrels have gone into their holes in the tree. Move hands behind back
The bird nests are empty. No birds do we see. Show palms
The elves have all gone for the winter, we know. Fold hands
There isn’t a person who knows where they go.

All is quiet.
Outside the beehive the snow is falling...

It snows — it snows — it snows!                     Start with your hands slightly above your head,
It snows — it snows — it snows!                     lowering them straight down, parallel to each
Far and wide — far and wide —               other, with airily moving fingers and thumbs, until
Wherever I look —                         your fingertips touch your thighs. The speed of
Snowfields white —                    your movements should be even and the “ow” in
White snow!                              “snows” slow, almost singing.

Wherever I look —                           Move your hands with the same finger
Snowfields white —                  movements up and to the sides in opposite
directions
White snow!                              Bring your hands together again, tracing the

Hay-oh! — Hay-oh! — Hay-oh! —            Move your parallel hands up, and at “white,” let it
Hay-oh! — Hay-oh! — Hay-oh! —              snow straight down to your thighs or to the floor.

All is quiet.
Inside the beehive the bees are dreaming...

They dream of the flowers…                  Prepare for Circle Dance
In and out the dusky bluebells         Some children stand in a circle, holding hands
In and out the dusky bluebells

compiled by Renee Schwartz
In and out the dusky bluebells
Won’t you be my partner?

Pitter patter pitter patter on your shoulder
Pitter patter pitter patter on your shoulder
Pitter patter pitter patter on your shoulder
Won’t you be my partner?

They dream of the trees…

We are little lemon trees, waving all our leaves,
Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! Come the busy little bees!
They sip and they sup from all of our flowers,
Buzzing all around us for hours and hours!

They dream of the rain…

Pitter, patter, pitter, patter
Ten little raindrops dancing on the walk
Pitter, patter, pitter, patter,
This is how they talk.

They dream of the breeze…

Flowers tall,
Flowers small,
Count them one by one,
Blowing with the breezes
In the springtime sun!
1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Now the Ice Dragon covers the land with white
See, there is not a flower in sight.
The bees huddle close, to keep their Queen warm
Holding her safe in the midst of the swarm.
When she shivers she must have some honey,
Gathered back when the days were so sunny.

Little bees work very hard,
Making golden honey,
Taking nectar from the flowers,
When the days are sunny.

A little bee brings honey to her Queen,
From the sweetest flowers you ever have seen,
She sips it and sighs, warmed through once again,
And the bees rest on. Will this Winter end?

compiled by Renee Schwartz
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One morning the Queen tells a brave little bee,
Creep to the entrance and fly out for me,
Search and search all over the land,
Find me a flower somewhere if you can.

This journey can be done with a finger puppet

The kind little bee wanders high, wanders low
She worries and wonders; she still sees some snow
Will it be Spring soon or do cold winds still blow?

A white patch on the ground
A bell rings a sweet sound
A snowdrop is what she has found

Gently ring a bell to awaken the “bees”

She holds onto its stem, leans in, takes a sip
And swiftly flies home with the news of her trip.

Children sit up

Snowdrop down, crocus up
Head held down, and head held up,
Down to Mother Earth
And up to Father Sun
Winter is over, and spring has begun.

Make bud shape with hands, point down, point up
Repeat the movement
Point arms down
Point arms up
Jump up, hold hands and dance

The hive starts stirring when all hear the news
Hurry, hurry, there’s no time to lose!

Move busily around the “hive”

Winter's gone
The snow has past.
Spring time’s here
We shout, at last!
Flower buds do open wide,
Bees are welcome deep inside.

Prepare for Circle Dance

Look who’s here, it's Lady Spring,
Lady Spring, Lady Spring,
Look who’s here, it's Lady Spring,
Lady Spring is here.

Children stand in a circle. A Lady Spring is chosen and stands in the center.

Who’ll come into our wee ring… etc.
And dance with Lady Spring?

Lady Spring chooses a partner

William will come into our wee ring…. etc.
And dance with Lady Spring.

Keep singing this verse, both choosing a partner
Continue until all children are dancing

Come with me said Lady Spring… etc.
We’re off to dance and sing.

Everyone sing and dance
Teaching Notes:

We did this in January, and then transitioned into Laurie Clark’s “The Honey Bees Waggle Dance Circle” in time for Candlemas on February 2nd. Hers is found in Movement Journeys and Circle Adventures: Therapeutic Support for Early Childhood, volume 2 on page 73. She states that the inspiration for her Circle comes from Arthur Auer’s bee story in Learning about the World through Modeling: Sculptural Ideas for School and Home, available FREE at the Online Waldorf Library: http://www.waldorflibrary.org/books/3/view/52/ebooks/42/learning-about-the-world-through-modeling-ebook

Puppetry Notes:

Suzanne Down has a bee puppet pattern on page 115 of Around the World with Finger Puppet Animals.

There is also a bee pattern in The Nature Corner: Celebrating the Year’s Cycle with Seasonal Tableaux by M. van Leeuwen and J. Moeskops.

Verse & Movement Credits:

The Breathing Circle: Learning through the Movement of the Natural Breath by Nell Smyth
“We are Little Lemon Trees,” p.104; “Pitter Patter Raindrops,” p.67

Gesture Games for Autumn and Winter by Willa Ellersiek
“It Snows,” p.90

Rhymes for Fingers and Flannel Boards by Louise Binder Scott and J.J. Thompson
“In Wintertime” by Maude Burnham, p.120; “Flowers,” p.127

The Singing Year book and CD set by Candy Verney
“In and out the dusky bluebells,” p.28, track 27; “Snowdrop down,” p. 3, track 1; “Lady Spring,” p.9, track 7

Spring Tales by Suzanne Down
“Winter’s gone”

Summer by Wynstones Press
“Little bees work very hard,” p.53

Story Credits:

Inspired by chapters 1 and 2 of Little Bee Sunbeam by Jakob Streit, available FREE at the Online Waldorf Library: http://www.waldorflibrary.org/books/3/view_bl/52/ebooks/107/little-bee-sunbeam-ebook

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