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Lenape Project
Children’s Activities and Song
Tani hech maxkw?
(to the tune of Where is thumbkin)
Use pictures of the animals that you can easily “find” and “hide”

A:  Tani hech maxkw?
    Tani hech maxkw?
B:  Ntapi, ntapi
A:  Keku hech kemikendam?
B:  Ntashewil sipung.
A:  Ikali a, ikali a

Where is Bear?
I am here, I am here.
What are you doing?
I am swimming in the river
Run away, run away.

You can exchange maxkw for any animal. I have provided some examples, but it is simple to allow the children to create their own.

puchis – nkawihele
Cat – I am sleeping a short time
(taking a nap)
teme – nemekike
Wolf – I am barking
mwekane – nuchchulense
Dog – I am hunting birds
chinkwe - newelamehele
Bobcat - I am running well
chemames – ntalakihela
Rabbit – I jump around
chulens – nkenthalwi tekening
Bird – I am flying to the forest.

For additional variation, use the names of the children instead of animals. Each child may answer “keku hech kemikendam?” as they please/are able to.

To make the song more interactive, have half of the children sing part A with the teacher, while the other half each choose an animal to act out. The children representing an animal can hide around the area, jumping out for their verse and then hiding again.
Newixenen kshitay

This is a memory game. The first child must say the phrase below and add an ingredient at the end. Each subsequent child must then repeat everything the previous child said, in order, and add an ingredient to the end. If a child forgets the words, or gives the incorrect answer, he or she is out of that round.

Nkatupwi ok nkatatam kshitay. Newixenen ne kshitay wichi...

ahpon                     bread
ahtuwiyus                 venison
shukelapon                cake
sikhay                    salt
pepel                     pepper
tenapes                   turnip
hopenisak                 potatoes
apelish                   apple
tea                       ti
kapi                      coffee

I have included many items that would not usually be included into a soup. You may either choose to allow all food items (for an easier version of the game), or only those that would typically be found in a soup.
This is more of a chant than a song. Subtract one of the children from each verse, until the end, so that you review all numbers through 10.

Telen mimensak
papuwak ahsening.
Kweti kaihele ok lepakek
Notumewa kohesa
ok kohesa luwe:
Kachi lapi
papu ahsening!

Ten children
they play by the rocks.
One falls and cries.
They call her, his mother
and his mother she says:
Don’t again
play by the rocks!

When the last child falls down, change the final lines of the chant to:

Mimensak,
xansuning eyok!

Children,
go to bed!
This song is also more of a chant. The teacher says each line, then the class repeats it. That way, even if the line is difficult, the children don’t have to remember it alone. Each line is accompanied by motions, as stated underneath. Each verse is preceded by the refrain and the song ends with a different section.

refrain:

Xu nutmaxkwehena
We will hunt a bear
(stomp legs as if walking)
Xu ktuhenawena xinkmaxkw
We will catch him a big bear
(hold arms over head to show how big)

verses:

Pena! Anukan!
Look, a muddy place!
(point off to the side)
Atam anukanink!
Let’s go to the muddy place.
(stomp making “shlump” sounds, as if feet were getting stuck in mud)

Pena! Sipu!
Look, a river!
(point off to the side)
Atam sipunk!
Let’s go to the river.
(stomp making “shlump” sounds, as if feet were getting stuck in mud)

Pena! Teken!
Look, a forest!
(point off to the side)
Atam tekenink!
Let’s go to the forest.
(duck as if avoiding branches)

1 I sort of invented this word. The lenape talking dictionary had words such as “to hunt rabbit” and “to hunt birds”. I extrapolated from there. If this doesn’t work, you can substitute “we hunt him bear”, which I believe is “natunawena maxkw”.
Pena! Hakihakan! Look, a field!
(point off to the side)
Atam hakihakanink! Let’s go to the field.
(make swishing noises and hand motions, as if pushing through tall wheat)

Pena! Ahchu! Look, a hill!
(point off to the side)
Atam ahchunk! Let’s go to the hill.
(pretend to climb)

Pena! Maxkwikaon²! Look! A bear cave!
(point off to the side)
Atam maxkwikaoning. (stomp more carefully)

final section:
Ahi piske Its very dark
Newishasi I’m scared.
(act scared)
Keku hech? What is that?
(jump)
Maxkw! Bear!
Ikalia! Run away!
(stomp feet quickly)

(repeat all previous motions quickly)
Halapsi!
Atam ahchunk!
Halapsi!
Atam hakihakanink!

² I couldn’t find the word for cave, so I used bear house.
Halapsi!
Atam tekenink!
Halapsi!
Atam sipunk!
Halapsi!
Atam anukanink!

ku numaxkwehena mata chich! We will not hunt a bear never again!
Games

Kishkwit keku hech litke ne wihēlahtikàn?
Line the children up on one side of the field, while standing on the other. The children then ask “what color is the flag today?”, and the teacher responds with a color. The children who are wearing an article of clothing with that color may pass to the other side; those who do not must run. If the teacher tags one of the running children, he or she must join the teacher’s team. Continue, switching sides, until only one child is left. That child gets to be the first of the tagging team in the next round.

Noodle game
Assign the children each one word (with a picture of the word on a sheet of paper) from a group of words (members of the family, numbers, etc). Have the children stand in a circle. Choose one to stand in the middle, holding a noodle. Call out one of the words the children are holding. The child holding the noodle tries to hit the child holding the appropriate word, while the child holding the first word tries to call out a second word. If the noodle-holding child manages to hit one of the others before they say a new word, the two children switch places.

3 Only below the head and above the belt. This shouldn’t hurt anyone.