



This is a great audience participation song! The basic hand motion goes with the first word of each verse, “Way”. Whenever you sing way, the audience holds a hand up in the air and when you quit saying “way” their hand goes down. It is fun to hold that word for varying beats so they don’t know what’s coming next. There are other hand motions and I will note those next to where they go.

Way down in the valley, where nobody goes.
Lives the Wish Washy Washer Woman washing her clothes.
She goes swish, swish (pretend to be using a washboard)
swish, swish (pretend to be using a washboard)
She goes swish, swish (pretend to be using a washboard)
swish, swish (pretend to be using a washboard)
And that’s how the Wishy Washy Washer Woman washes her clothes

Anything that rhymes with “goes” she can do and you only need to come up with a matching action. This is really fun if you enjoy improv.

Here are a few standards that I use....

Drying her clothes (hold hands in front of face and blow air, making the sound who, ha)
Folding her clothes (clap on one side and then on the other)
Smelling a rose (big sniff and say aaahhhh)
Painting her toes (pretend to paint toes and say, swish, ew)

And I usually wrap up with
Says Adios! (wave and say, adios)

Workshop Presenter

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