

**SONG TITLE: THIS IS THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT**  
(traditional; adapted by A. Kelly-Saxenmeyer)

*video provided*

**Lesson Planning: HAND STORY, FALLING OR RISING ACTION**

When you're chanting this cumulative hand story in class, try to have each movement "land" on the word that describes it. The lyrics are supplied on the left. The column on the right provides movements to accompany the story.

**LYRICS**

**MOVEMENT & SOUND EFFECTS**

**VERSE 1:**

This is the house that  
Jack built

Rooftop (with fingertips together, pointing up)  
Hammer, hammer (with one hand)  
Clap, clap

**REPEAT**

This is the cheese that  
Lay in the house that  
Jack built

Triangle shape (pointing down)  
Rooftop  
Hammer, hammer (with one hand)  
Clap, clap

**REPEAT**

This is the rat that  
Ate the cheese that  
Lay in the house that  
Jack built

Wiggling whisker fingers  
Triangle shape (pointing down)  
Rooftop  
Hammer, hammer (with one hand)  
Clap, clap

**REPEAT**

This is the cat that  
Worried the rat that  
Ate the cheese that  
Lay in the house that  
Jack built

Pull whiskers from your cheeks outward  
Wiggling whisker fingers  
Triangle shape (pointing down)  
Rooftop  
Hammer, hammer (with one hand)  
Clap, clap

**REPEAT**

This is the dog that  
Chased the cat that  
Worried the rat that  
Ate the cheese that  
Lay in the house that  
Jack built

Flop two paws forward (like begging)  
Pull whiskers  
Wiggling whisker fingers  
Triangle shape (pointing down)  
Rooftop  
Hammer, hammer (with one hand)  
Clap, clap

## REPEAT

This is the boy who walked  
The dog that  
Chased the cat that  
Worried the rat that  
Ate the cheese that  
Lay in the house that  
Jack built

Walk fingers across horizontal arm for 8 counts in  
silence  
Keep walking  
Flop paws forward  
Pull whiskers  
Wiggling whisker fingers  
Triangle shape (pointing down)  
Rooftop  
Hammer, hammer (with one hand)  
Clap, clap

## REPEAT

### **This is the woman who opened the door to welcome**

The boy who walked  
The dog that  
Chased the cat that  
Worried the rat that  
Ate the cheese that  
Lay in the house that  
Jack built

### **Grab the handle and open the door in one long motion**

Fingers *run* across your arm  
Flop paws forward  
Pull whiskers  
Wiggling whisker fingers  
Triangle shape (pointing down)  
Rooftop  
Hammer, hammer (with one hand)  
Clap, clap

### **This is the woman who opened the door to welcome**

The boy who walked  
The dog that  
Chased the cat that  
Worried the rat that  
Ate the cheese that  
Lay in the house that  
Jack built

### **Grab the handle and open the door in one long motion**

Fingers *run* across your arm  
Flop paws forward  
Pull whiskers  
Wiggling whisker fingers  
Triangle shape (pointing down)  
Rooftop  
Hammer, hammer (with one hand)

### **—The house that Jack built**

### **Clap, clap Hammer, hammer (with one hand)**

**Variations:** Once your families know this hand story, they'll enjoy keeping up with the pace of it, chanting along and doing the movements. Encourage them to do this by keeping the lyrics pretty consistent—but for an occasional variation, change one of the characters. Have fun making it something that doesn't belong; use a dinosaur instead of a dog, or a robot instead of a woman.

**3- to 5-year-olds:** Once children are familiar with this story, try extending it into a Mad-Lib-style songwriting activity. Before you begin, ask the class to volunteer three animals: a small one, a bigger one, and an even bigger one. Then have the class come up with a movement to represent each animal. Do the chant, replacing the rat, cat, and dog with the animals and movements suggested by the class.