

A PENNY AND A HALF

I once had a penny and a half.
With my penny and a half I bought a hen.
Ay! Ay! What a hen!
My little hen...gave me an egg.
I had a hen. I had an egg.
And I still had my penny and a half.

I once had a penny and a half.
With my penny and a half I bought duck.
Ay! Ay! What a duck!
My little duck, gave me a duckling.
I had a duck. I had a duckling.
I had a hen. I had an egg.
And I still had my penny and a half.

(Keep adding animals. Let the children suggest animals to add if you like).

Ending:

I once had a penny and a half.
With my penny and a half I bought a guitar!
Ay! Ay! What a guitar!
And every time I played my guitar...
the cat danced and the kitten danced
etc etc
the duck danced and the duckling danced
the hen danced and the egg danced too!
Ay! Ay! What a penny and a half!

From a Chilean folktale.

Retold by Margaret Read MacDonald in LOOK BACK AND SEE: TWENTY LIVELY TALES FOR GENTLE TELLERS (H.W. Wilson, 1991).