

Nursery Rhymes are GREAT!



Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they're four years old, they're usually among the best readers by the time they're eight.

Nursery Rhymes are fantastic for developing children's early language and reading skills. Young children have the capacity to learn and retain an enormous amount of information and by hearing nursery rhymes over and over they easily learn them off by heart.

By teaching your child nursery rhymes, you will help them acquire the following skills.

Language Development

Nursery rhymes help your child learn new words. They are easy for young children to remember and repeat as there are lots of rhythm and repetition. They introduce a child to new ways of using their voice as they can be loud or quiet, fast or slow and use a variety of inflections.

Early Reading Skills

Nursery Rhymes help young children understand the structure of a story as most rhymes will have a clear beginning, middle and end. In Jack and Jill they go up the hill, fetch a pail of water and then it all goes wrong. This is a whole story in just a few lines. It is also an old nursery rhyme so it will introduce your child to words they may not have heard before—pail for bucket and crown for head. This will help your child understand that there is more than one word for the same thing.

Physical Development

Children love acting out their favourite rhymes and they offer great opportunities to get them moving. Movements in action rhymes and songs will help develop a child's fine and gross motor skills as well as balance, coordination. They will also be developing the skills required to follow simple instructions.

Numeracy

Many rhymes will help your child become familiar with numbers and counting. Rhymes such as 'One, Two, Three, Four, Five—Once I Caught A Fish Alive' will help your child remember the order of numbers. Other rhymes can introduce important mathematical concepts such as size and order.

Whatever rhymes you share with you child you can be confident that you are helping develop skills and abilities they will need when they are older.

We hope you and you child enjoy the rhymes on the next pages.

Hey Diddle Diddle

Hey diddle diddle,
The Cat and the fiddle,
The Cow jumped over the moon,
The little Dog laughed to see such sport,
And the Dish ran away with the Spoon



Hickory Dickory Dock

Hickory, dickory, dock,
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck one,
The mouse ran down,
Hickory, dickory, dock.



TOP TIPS

Teach your child as many as rhymes as you can.—try to introduce a new rhyme each week

Finger rhymes are great for strengthening your child's fine motor skills—necessary for learning to write.

Combine the rhymes with clapping or movement to reinforce the sound rhythms

Have fun and be silly—use actions, facial expressions and vary your tone to capture your child's interest

Rhymes are great tantrum diffusers as kids just can not resist joining in. TRY IT!

Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the king's horses and all the king's men
Couldn't put Humpty together again.

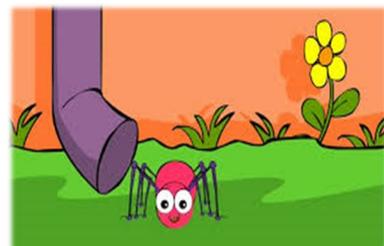


Finger Rhyme

I have ten little fingers and they all belong to me.
I can make them do things, would you like to see?
I can shut them up tight
Or open them wide.
I can put them together
Or make them all hide.
I can make them jump high
Or make them go low
I can fold them quietly and hold them just so.

Incy Wincy Spider

Incy Wincy spider climbing up the spout
Down came the rain and washed the spider out
Out came the sunshine and dried up all the rain
And Incy Wincy spider climbed up the spout again.



1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I caught a fish alive

One, two, three, four, five,
Once I caught a fish alive.
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten,
Then I let it go again.

Why did you let it go?
Because it bit my finger so.
Which finger did it bite?
This little finger on the right.



Little Miss Muffet

Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet
Eating her curds and whey,
Along came a spider,
Who sat down beside her
And frightened Miss Muffet away.



MORE SUGGESTIONS

- Pause before the rhyming word and encourage your child to finish the line on their own.
- Change words (such as names) to make the rhyme personalised, for example, "Little x sat on a tuffet."
- Make up your own actions to the rhymes and encourage your child to come up with their own ideas.
- Say the wrong words and let your child correct you!
- Make puppets or use your child's toys to bring the rhyme to life

Nursery rhymes are funny – some make little sense, others have unexpected endings. And if you forget the words or are feeling creative you can make up some of your own versions!

Three Blind Mice

Three blind mice, three blind mice,
See how they run, see how they run,
They all ran after the farmer's wife,
Who cut off their tails with a carving knife,
Did you ever see such a thing in your life,
As three blind mice?



Baa Baa Black Sheep

Baa baa black sheep, have you any
wool?
Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full!
One for the master, one for the dame,
And one for the little boy who lives



I'm A Little Teapot

I'm a little teapot,
Short and stout,
Here's my handle
Here 's my spout
When the kettle boils
Hear me shout,
Tip me over and pour me out!



Mary Had A Little Lamb

Mary had a little lamb,
It's fleece was white as snow;
And everywhere that Mary went
The lamb was sure to go.

He followed her to school one day
Which was against the rule;
It made the children laugh and play,
To see a lamb at school.



Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the stream
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily
Life is but a dream

Row, row, row your boat
Gently up the creek. If you see a croco-
dile
Don't forget to shriek!

Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the river. If you see a polar
bear
Don't forget to scream!



Row, row, row your boat
Gently to the shore
If you see a lion there
Don't forget to roar!

Jack and Jill

Jack and Jill went up the hill
To fetch a pail of water.
Jack fell down and broke his crown,
And Jill came tumbling after.

Then up got Jack and said to Jill,
As in his arms he took her,
"Brush off that dirt for you're not hurt,
Let's fetch that pail of water.

So Jack and Jill went up the hill
To fetch the pail of water,
And took it home to Mother dear,
Who thanked her son and daughter

