

Getting started

*collect story props and make little **storytelling baskets** or bags to go with popular rhymes or stories e.g. a cow, a dog and a cat toys along with a dish and a spoon from the kitchen to sing "Hey Diddle Diddle", a little cardboard star to wave as you sing "Twinkle Twinkle"



*borrow / buy / make simple puppets for oral retelling of songs and stories without using a book or picture



*clap/ pat/ stamp along to music with a steady beat, tapping out the rhythm of a chant or even a book.

The importance of rhyme

By singing and re-telling familiar rhymes and rhyming stories we teach or children: - auditory discrimination - listening skills - a rich range of language - concentration skills - oral storytelling / poetry skills - phonemic awareness

More specifically they learn:

- * to be able to listen for and keep a steady beat
- * to learn whole songs and chants off by heart from a very young age
- * to be able to retell and sing these independently from a very young age
- * to be able to complete a rhyming sentence or couplet by predicting the word that is missing
- * to be able to discriminate rhyming words and identify those that don't rhyme
- * to make their own strings of rhymes during word play eg cat/ fat/ mat/ sat/ hat/ bat/ that
- * to invent and experiment with making their own "silly" words that rhyme eg clat/ smat/ thrat/ grat/ vlat

They also develop good maths skills at the same time, which makes perfect sense and is very interesting!

The research states that when comparing the literary abilities of school age children, those who had a good understanding of rhyme from an early age, vastly outperformed those who had little exposure to it before they started school. So clearly we want to focus on rhythmic activities as much as we can in the early years and first couple of years at school.

Have fun, keep it light hearted and enjoyable and remember that no time spent reading, singing or story re-telling is EVER wasted.



Top tips for: Rhyming activities

Rhymes can be used in lots of areas of learning: maths, literacy, malleable, sand and water play. Here are a few ideas to get you started and have some fun. while you learn!



Rhyme in maths

5 little ducks in a bowl of water or in the bath.



5 currant buns made with playdough



10 green bottles bowling game made with recycled bottles



Rhyme in literacy

Incy Wincy spider made out of playdough



Make a stick man to have adventures with



Make a telescope to see the shark in the park!



Rhyming stories

Authors such as Julia Donaldson, Dr. Suess, Nick Sharratt, Colin Hawkins, Giles Andreae, Clare Freedman and Ben Cort have produced lots of rhyming stories that children love and know well from school. Look on the Imagination Tree website for the 50 best rhyming books.

Nursery rhymes

Baa baa woolley sheep
Twinkle twinkle
Incy wincy spider
Humpty dumpty
Little Miss Muffet
Hickory Dickory Dock
Hey diddle diddle
Row your boat

Useful websites

theimagination-tree.com/category/rhymes

www.bookstart.org.uk/have-some-fun/#/static/bookstart/fun-stuff

www.topmarks.co.uk/Interactive.aspx?cat=13