

Nursery Rhymes

Tips for Parents and Caregivers

Here are ideas and activities to try this week with your child. Each activity is based on one of the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles of early literacy development and is designed to engage your child, stimulate his or her literacy skills, and enhance the bonds between you.

- 1. SHARE BOOKS** Give your child paper and large crayons. After their drawing is finished, fold the paper in half and write favorite rhymes on the pages. This is your baby's own special book!
- 2. SHARE SOUNDS** Nursery rhymes, even nonsense ones, are excellent for babies' learning about sounds and language. Many rhymes have persisted so long because they are so pleasing to children's ears and fun for parents to recite.
- 3. SHARE WORDS** Nursery rhymes expose children to vocabulary words they wouldn't normally hear in everyday language. Read aloud picture book or board book collections of nursery rhymes to your child to get the most out of these classics.
- 4. SHARE RHYMES** Use the rhymes from today's storytime as a springboard for your own. Make up your own verses, or just create nonsense sounds. Eventually your child will join in.
- 5. SHARE SONGS** The songs shared in today's storytime are classics that every child should know. Aim for singing to your child at least once a day, and don't be embarrassed if you're overheard by anyone else. It doesn't matter if you're in tune!
- 6. SHARE STORIES** You can use nursery rhymes as story starters. For example, with "Hickory Dickory Dock" ask, "Why did the mouse run back down the clock? Where do you think the mouse went after it ran down the clock?" The possibilities are endless!
- 7. SHARE PLAYTIME** Play nursery rhyme recordings and have a dance party with little ones. Blow bubbles, sing rhymes, and bounce or dance to the music.

Songs and Rhymes for Nursery Rhymes

Here are the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with them every day, you will help your child make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

Songs

If You're Happy to Be Here

(sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*
If you're happy to be here, then place a smile there, *(Point to mouth)*
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands. *(Clap hands)*

If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*
If you're ready to have some fun, then join in everyone,
(Motion hands to join in)
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands. *(Clap hands)*

Hickory Dickory Dock

Hickory dickory dock, *(Clap to the rhythm)*
The mouse ran up the clock, *("Run" fingers up child's arm)*
The clock struck one, *(Clap on "one")*
And down he run, *("Run" fingers downward)*
Hickory dickory dock! *(Clap to the rhythm)*

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Row, row, row your boat, *(Make rowing arms)*
Gently down the stream,
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Life is but a dream.

Additional Verses

Twist, twist, twist your boat ... *(Twist back and forth)*
Bounce, bounce, bounce your boat ... *(Bounce gently)*

Where Is Thumbkin?

(sung to the tune of "Frere Jacques/Are You Sleeping?")

Where is Thumbkin? Where is Thumbkin?
(Hide fists behind back, with thumbs up)
Here I am! Here I am! *(Bring forward one fist, then the other fist)*
How are you today, sir? *(Wiggle one thumb,*
Very well, I thank you. *(Wiggle other thumb)*
Run away, run away. *(Hide fists behind back again, one at a time)*

The More We Get Together

The more we get together, *(Sway from side to side in time to music)*
Together, together,
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.
For your friends are my friends, *(Point to child, then to self)*
And my friends are your friends, *(Point to self, then to child)*
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.

Additional Verse

The more we play together...

Rhymes

Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, *(Bounce or clap to rhythm)*
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall,
All the king's horses and all the king's men,
Kindly put Humpty together again.

Little Miss Muffet

Little Miss Muffet *(Hold one thumb up)*
Sat on her tuffet, *(Place thumb hand on top of other fist)*
Eating her curds and whey. *(Make chewing motions as if eating)*
Along came a spider, *(Crawl hand like spider)*
And sat down beside her,
And frightened Miss Muffet away! *(Loud clap!)*

This Little Piggy

Take child's sock or shoe off first!

This little piggy went to market, *(Wiggle child's big toe)*
This little piggy stayed home, *(Wiggle second toe)*
This little piggy had roast beef, *(Wiggle middle toe)*
This little piggy had none, *(Wiggle fourth toe)*
And this little piggy cried,
"Whee whee whee whee whee!" *(Wiggle pinky toe)*
All the way home.