

GETTING READY TO LEARN



Nursery Rhymes Are Great!

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.

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.

Did You Know...?

Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know 8 nursery rhymes by heart by age 4, they're usually among the best readers by the time they're 8!

Early Reading Skills

Nursery rhymes help understand story structure, as most rhymes have a clear beginning, middle and end. E.g. Jack and Jill go up the hill, fetch water and it all goes wrong—a whole story in just a few lines. It is an old rhyme so introduces words they may not have heard before: pail > bucket, crown > head. This will help them understand that there is more than one word for something!

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 enjoy the rhymes on the next few pages!

TOP TIPS
FOR
PARENTS

Sharing Nursery Rhymes



Nursery rhymes are important for young children, they help develop an ear for our language. Both rhyme and rhythm help children hear the sounds and syllables in words, which helps them learn to read.

Nursery rhymes are funny – some make little sense, others have unexpected endings! Rhymes can be sung or chanted at any time throughout the day. They are short and quick making them easy to slot into the daily routine. And if you forget the words or are feeling creative you can make up some of your own versions!

Try some of our 'Top Tips' for sharing nursery rhymes together:

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

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

Pause before the rhyming word and **encourage** your child to finish the line on their own

Change words (such as names) to **personalise** the rhymes, e.g. "Little Miss [Name] sat on a tuffet."

Say the **wrong words** and let your child correct you!

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

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

Make **puppets** or use your child's **toys** to bring the rhyme to life!

