

Hickory Dickory Dock



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

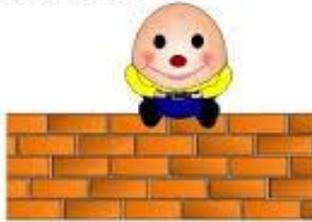


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Humpty Dumpty

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.



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Incy Wincy Spider

Incy Wincy Spider
Climbed up the water spout.
Down came the rain
And washed poor Incy out.
Out came the sunshine
And dried up all the rain.
And Incy Wincy Spider
Climbed up the spout again.



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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
down the lane.



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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.

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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?!



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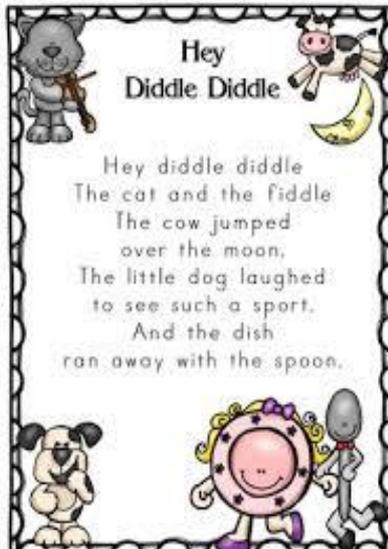
Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle little star,
How I wonder what you are.



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Hey Diddle Diddle



Hey diddle diddle
The cat and the fiddle
The cow jumped
over the moon,
The little dog laughed
to see such a sport.
And the dish
ran away with the spoon.

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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 down the stream.
If you see a crocodile,
Don't for get to scream!



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The Wonder of Nursery Rhymes

Nursery rhymes play an important role in early childhood development and education. As well as being fun they are excellent teaching tools:

We are passionate about nursery rhymes and feel their importance shouldn't be overlooked. Each day in our classes, we see first-hand how children benefit from singing and playing along to songs and rhymes.

Experts in literacy and child development have also discovered that if a child knows eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they are four years old, they are usually among the best readers and spellers in their class by the time they are in Year 3.

Why is this?

1. Nursery rhymes are a great way into learning early phonic skills (the ability to hear, identify and manipulate letter sounds).

Most schools use phonics as one of the main ways to teach reading.

2. Nursery rhymes give children practise in pitch, volume as well as in language rhythm.

Think about how your voice sounds when you ask a question or when you retell an event to friends – children need to learn these language variations.

3. Nursery rhymes expand your child's imagination.

Nursery rhymes allow you to take your child to an imaginary world where cows jump over the moon and vinegar and brown paper are a remedy for a cracked head! They transport children to a world of fantasy and play and can really develop your child's visualisation skills through the use of actions.

4. Nursery rhymes follow a clear sequence of events.

Although short, nursery rhymes often tell a story and contain a beginning, middle and end. Whilst this may be a compact way of storytelling, these will be some of the first stories your child will be able to follow and understand. Knowing about sequence of events will be a skill they need when reading.

5. Nursery rhymes are easy to repeat, so they become some of a child's first sentences.

Children start to speak by using single words, 'car' and eventually put these together to express meaning, 'Me go.'. Nursery rhymes allow even very young children to speak and understand in full sentences; this is a skill they will need before they are able to read.

6. Nursery rhymes improve a child's vocabulary.

Children hear and use new words that they wouldn't come across in everyday language, for example, 'Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water,' or 'when the bough breaks' from Rock a bye Baby.

7. Nursery rhymes contain sophisticated literary devices!

Nursery rhymes are a powerful learning source in early literacy. They enable children to become interested in the rhythm and patterns of language in a way that listening to stories does not provide.

8. Nursery rhymes are fun!

Quite often nursery rhymes make no sense or have unexpected endings – this is something your child will enjoy. Have a look at one of the lesser known verses of ‘Pop Goes the Weasel’:

Round and round the mulberry bush, The monkey chased the weasel, The monkey stopped to pull up his socks, And Pop goes the weasel.

Unusual? Yes. Funny though!

HOW CAN I INTRODUCE NURSERY RHYMES?

Start with simple rhymes that are not very lengthy. Try ‘Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star’, ‘Baa Baa Black Sheep’ and ‘1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive’.

Use actions, facial expression and vary your voice to capture their interest.

As your child becomes more familiar with the rhymes, encourage them to join in and say parts of the rhyme themselves (it will take a while before they can recite whole rhymes independently).

Remember that nursery rhymes are portable, they can be enjoyed anytime, anyplace, anywhere! Share them at bath time, when getting ready for bed, whilst cooking tea or in the car (and remember they can be fantastic tantrum diffusers as often children cannot resist joining in!).

THINGS TO DO WITH NURSERY RHYMES

1. Miss out rhyming words: encourage your child to finish the line.
2. Change words to make your own personalised rhymes, for example, ‘Nye and Jill went up the hill’ or, ‘One for the master, one for the dame and one for Nia Hopkins, who lives down the lane.’
3. Devise your own actions for nursery rhymes. Let your child suggest suitable ones which they’ll be more likely to remember.
4. Clap along and establish a steady beat.
5. Say the wrong words and let your children correct you!
6. Make a nursery rhyme ‘prop’ box by collecting items that feature in your favourites.
7. Visit the library to loan nursery rhyme books to extend your repertoire.
8. Buy a CD or download a selection to play and sing along with it in the house or in the car.

Website links

<http://landofnurseryrhymes.co.uk/> : games, illustrations to colour in and the top twenty rhymes

<http://kidsnurseryrhymes.co.uk/> : more of the same but also a free mp3 download facility

<http://www.songsforteaching.com/nurseryrhymes.htm> : some really interesting recorded variations available to sample and buy