

**Activity:** Nursery Rhymes

**Resources needed:** List of nursery rhymes your child likes listening and sing to.

**What you need to do:** Nursery rhymes are great literacy activity and fantastic was to get children using their words, because they are short and easy to learn- they will enjoy repetition.

**Links to EYFS areas of development:** Physical Development- Moving and Handling- Talk to children about their movements and help them to explore new ways of moving, such as squirming, slithering and twisting along the ground like a snake, and moving quickly, slowly or on tiptoe. Encourage body tension activities such as stretching, reaching, curling, twisting and turning. Be alert to the safety of children, particularly those who might overstretch Themselves. Encourage children to move with controlled effort, and use associated vocabulary such as 'strong', 'firm', 'gentle', 'heavy', 'stretch', 'reach', 'tense' and 'floppy'. Use music of different styles and cultures to create moods and talk about how people move when they are sad, happy or cross.

**What your child will get from the activity:**

### **Developing phonemic awareness**

Nursery rhymes teach children to pronounce words. A lot of nursery rhymes are full of interjections or funny words. They have the role of helping children repeat difficult groups of sounds with the aim of improving their speech. Above all, nursery rhymes teach children intonation and correct pronunciation.

### **Building memory and articulation**

Nursery rhymes are full of rhyming words, and usually it is words or groups of sounds that you don't encounter in regular words. By introducing your child to these patterns of sounds, nursery rhymes give their brain the input it will need to categorise words by their internal structure. This acts as a precursor to written language, where children have to identify the sounds of written words.

For example, nursery rhymes help your child's brain to differentiate between syllables and to identify similarities between words that rhyme or words that begin with the same sounds.

### **Understanding of concepts: painting pictures in children's heads**

When you teach your child nursery rhymes, you are contributing to their creative development. When you talk to your child from the moment they are born, through to their years of learning how to talk, you are equipping them with a solid vocabulary base.

What is more, children also learn to understand abstract concepts like big, small, in front, behind, first and last. The words used in nursery rhymes help children develop language comprehension by associating words with people, objects, and events in their daily life.

### **Development of social routines**

There are lots of fun nursery rhymes that you can sing in two parts. Teaching your child when they should tell their part in the rhyme contributes to their development of social skills. What is more, your child will also learn important conversation lessons, such as turn-taking and listening.

### **Listening skills**

When you read nursery rhymes to your child, you are telling them a story. Because of the rhyming words, the storyline, and your pronunciation, children are lured into the story and pay attention to you. This helps them make sense of the story and at the same time makes them good listeners.

<https://www.playgroupnsw.org.au/ParentResources/ParentingYoungChildren/benefits-of-nursery-rhymes>