



Nursery Rhyme Week

11th - 15th November 2024



Information provided by
Gloucestershire Educational Psychology
Service





Dear all,

World Nursery Rhyme Week 2024 will be taking place this year from the 11th to 15th November. You may be familiar with the week from previous years; many settings across Gloucestershire regularly take part in the annual week which celebrates the importance of nursery rhymes in children's learning and development.

We hope that you will be able to take part this year if you have not yet joined the fun! This pack aims to provide you with information about the week, resources and links which you can use to support your activities, and an information leaflet and activity ideas that you can share with parents.

ABOUT WORLD NURSERY RHYME WEEK

World Nursery Rhyme Week was founded by Music Bugs in 2013, and takes place every year. The aim of the week is to promote the importance of nursery rhymes in early childhood development and education.

Settings from all across the world take part in the week. So far over 5 million children from over 113 countries have taken part since 2013! Anyone who works with or has a child under the age of 7 is encouraged to become involved with World Nursery Rhyme Week, including schools, nurseries, pre-schools, parents/carers, grandparents, professionals, librarians...etc!

Please visit www.worldnurseryrhymeweek.com for more information.

THE IMPORTANCE OF NURSERY RHYMES

Please take a minute to look at the poster within this pack which highlights the benefits of nursery rhymes for children. There could be some benefits here which may surprise you! Nursery rhymes really are brilliant for so many aspects of a child's development and the more you can incorporate them into your everyday interactions and activities, the better.



BRINGING WORLD NURSERY RHYME WEEK TO YOUR SETTING

The creators of World Nursery Rhyme Week suggest having a focus rhyme each day during the week. You may wish to participate in the 'Rhyme a day challenge', or use these to provide a structure for your week. This year's chosen nursery rhymes are:



There are no set ways of incorporating the nursery rhymes, but some ideas may include:

- Having a nursery rhyme 'table' or 'corner' with activities and resources set up which are relevant to the daily nursery rhyme
- Taking time to sing the rhyme each day. Using actions, Makaton signs, pictures or physical resources can help to make this inclusive for all children
- Encouraging children and parents/carers to bring in a nursery rhyme or song from their own culture to share with the group
- Using a 'choosing board' to encourage children with limited verbal language skills to share their preferences (we have included an example board which you are welcome to print and use!).

For more ideas of activities for the different nursery rhymes, see our 'Rhyme a Day' activities leaflet later in this pack, and visit www.worldnurseryrhymeweek.com for further information.



WORKING WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

Although the focus of this week is on “Nursery Rhymes”, it is important to recognise that each family will have their own familiar songs, rhymes, stories and poems from their own experiences and cultures. Many of the benefits of nursery rhymes outlined in the poster are applicable across these too!

What is most important, is that parents and carers feel comfortable and familiar with the rhymes or songs they are using with their child. We hope that for parents and carers, nursery rhyme week can support confidence in using these with children, or with learning some new rhymes and songs with their child if they are unfamiliar with any of their own.



We hope you can join us and take part in World Nursery Rhyme Week 2024!

With best wishes,

Gloucestershire Educational Psychology Service



Contents of pack:

1. Activity ideas for the 'Rhyme a Day' challenge 2024
2. Further activity ideas from the 2023 'Rhyme a Day' challenge
3. Example 'Choosing Board'*
4. Poster on the benefits of nursery rhymes
5. Information leaflet for parents and carers
6. Activity ideas for parents based on the "Wheels on the Bus" (to print, use double sided and 'print on short edge')

*We would suggest printing the 'choosing board' in A3 if possible. Select 5 nursery rhyme pictures to put in the empty boxes (or create 5 of your own). Cut these out and put velcro or blu-tack on the back. The child then selects their chosen song and moves it into the top box to indicate their choice to the adult. Please email hatty.lee@gloucestershire.gov.uk if you would like an editable version.



'RHYME-A-DAY' CHALLENGE IDEAS

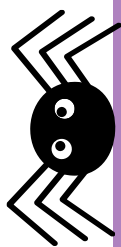
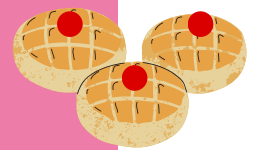


Each year, World Nursery Rhyme Week sets a challenge to do an activity each day for the five focus nursery rhymes.

Here are some ideas for activities to do with your children, based on World Nursery Rhyme Week's nursery rhymes for 2024.

5 CURRANT BUNS

Counting activity - create paper currant buns to go on a board. Show a child's name to take part in the song buying a bun. Practice subtraction as the buns are purchased by different children.



INCY WINCY SPIDER

Tuff tray activity - Make pipe cleaner spiders with the children. Fill up your tuff tray with water and pieces of plastic pipe for the spiders to go down. Develop language such as 'horizontal', 'vertical' and 'diagonal'.



THE BIG SHIP SAILS

Role play activity - encourage children to take it in turns to use their imagination and think where the Big Ship will sail next. Have one child pretend to be the ship, and others act out where the ship is sailing as you sing.

TWINKLE TWINKLE

Craft activity - Give each child a star to decorate before adding their photos to the star. Create a display of all of your nursery 'stars' by pinning them up around the room.



OLD MACDONALD

Sensory exploration - children use different plastic farmyard animals and tractors to make marks through and on paper. Introduce different sensory materials such as sand and shaving foam to explore.





Here are some more ideas for activities to do with your children, based on the five focus nursery rhymes for 2023...



Jack and Jill

Tuff tray activity– create a “hill scene” using different materials and add small world characters and props (e.g. mini buckets). Encourage the children to act out the story, adding their own alternative endings!



Hickory Dickory Dock

Clock building– ask the children to work together to build a giant clock tower using cardboard boxes. They can design different clock faces, adding numbers and movable hands!



Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Chalk body drawing- lay out some large rolls of paper and encourage the children to draw around one another. Support them to identify and label different parts of the body. Explore the 5 senses and which body parts relate to which sense!



Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Tales of the river bank– write a class story about an imaginary boat ride down the river. Think about what animals and plants you might see and the events that could unfold! Create a Story Sack to accompany the story.



The Wheels on the Bus

Bus role play – set up some chairs in the formation of a bus and select a volunteer to be the bus driver. Where would they like to go? How much will it cost? Design bus tickets and use real money!

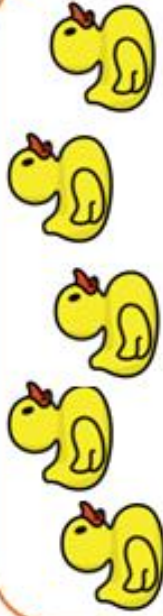




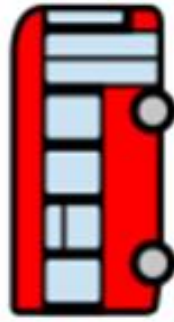
Which song shall we sing today?



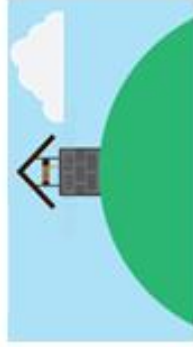
BINGO



Five Little Ducks



The Wheels on the Bus



Jack and Jill



Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star



Incy, Wincy Spider



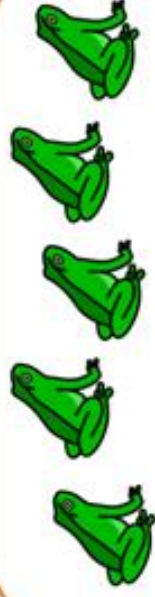
Five Little Monkeys



Row, Row, Row the Boat



Old MacDonald



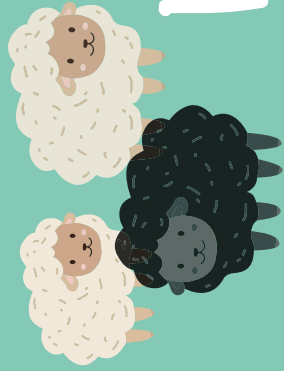
Five Little Speckled Frogs



Heads, Shoulders, Knees
and Toes



Hickory, Dickory, Dock



The benefits of

Nursery Rhymes

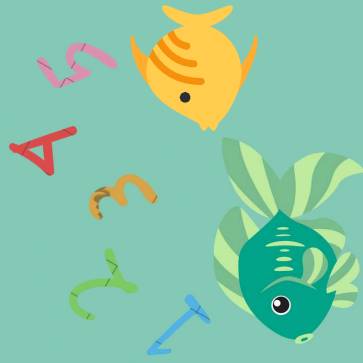
Most of us have grown up singing nursery rhymes, but have you ever stopped to think about how they may help a child's development? Here's just a few of the many benefits!

Early language development

Through nursery rhymes, children learn a wide vocabulary, practice making and differentiating between speech sounds, and gain a better understanding of rhythm, volume and intonation

Social skills

From singing with an adult, children learn joint attention skills, turn taking, eye contact and following the actions of others - all of which help in their play and interactions with other children



Later academic achievement

Nursery rhymes often involve counting, addition/subtraction, shapes, complex vocabulary, alliteration, rhyme and the sequencing of stories. These all have a positive impact on early literacy and numeracy development.

Knowledge about the world

Nursery rhymes cover a wide range of topics which help to develop a child's knowledge and understanding about the world. For example, learning about different animals and the sounds they make, the night sky, the human body... and so many more!

#worldnurseryrhymeweek

Emotional regulation

Many of us use nursery rhymes to soothe babies and young children when they are upset. This co-regulation forms the basis of children learning their own emotional regulation skills.

Relationship building

Nursery rhymes are sung with children from an early age, helping to develop their attachment and feeling of security with the adult. Positive attachments early in life shape how we form relationships with others when we are older.

Motor skills

Nursery rhymes often involve actions which help to develop a child's fine and gross motor skills and their coordination. Think how tricky it was to learn the finger actions for 'Incy Wincy Spider' when you were little!



Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they're four years old, they're usually among the best readers by the time they're eight. - Mem Fox, Reading Magic.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



**11TH - 15TH
NOVEMBER
2024**



NURSERY RHYMES

Nursery rhymes are short rhymes or songs which usually tell a story. ✨

As a child, you may have heard rhymes from your own parents or carers. Different nursery rhymes are heard all over the world, and often get passed down from generation to generation.

Do you remember any from your own childhood? ✨



WHY SING NURSERY RHYMES?

Apart from being something fun or soothing for your child, did you know just how beneficial nursery rhymes can be? They can help in so many different ways including:

- Language skills
- Learning about the world
- Early reading skills
- Learning about numbers
- Movement skills
- Building relationships
- Learning how to interact with others



... and many more! Take a look at the poster we have created through the website link below, or by following the QR code to find out more about the benefits of nursery rhymes.



WORLD NURSERY RHYME WEEK

Your child's nursery, childminders or school may be taking part in World Nursery Rhyme Week, which was founded by Music Bugs in 2013. The aim of the week is to highlight the importance of nursery rhymes in early childhood development and education.

To celebrate the week, settings may have different activities taking place which relate to nursery rhymes.



THIS YEAR'S NURSERY RHYMES

Each year, World Nursery Rhyme Week focuses on five different nursery rhymes. This year these are:

1. Twinkle Twinkle
2. Old Macdonald
3. The Big Ship Sails
4. Incy Wincy Spider
5. Currant Buns



HOW CAN I TAKE PART?

Despite there being so many benefits to nursery rhymes, research has found that they are being sung less and less over time. ✨

If you don't sing nursery rhymes at home already, World Nursery Rhyme Week would be the perfect time to give it a go. See what benefits you notice for your child! ✨

Visit www.worldnurseryrhymeweek.com for links to different videos and music playlists to help you out.

Each family will have their own favourite nursery rhymes, influenced by their own experiences and culture.

You may wish to try the rhymes above, or sing some which you are more familiar with. The most important thing is that you feel confident and happy with the song you are singing.

If you would like some ideas for activities to do at home, have a look at our Wheels on the Bus activity booklet.



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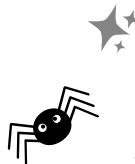
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Useful Websites

- <https://www.worldnurseryrhymeweek.com/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-wheels-on-the-bus/zdq8gwx>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJ-4lTcaQg8>
- <https://www.sophiesnursery.com/the-wheels-on-the-bus-themed-activities/>
- <https://besttoys4toddlers.com/wheels-on-the-bus-learning-activities/>
- <https://www.dltk-teach.com/rhymes/bus/index.htm>
- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/early-years-nursery-rhyme/early-years-nursery-rhyme-nursery-rhymes/early-years-the-wheels-on-the-bus>
- <https://roadsafetyweek.org/schools-colleges/2-uncategorised/69-road-safety-lesson-plans#twofive>
- <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/educational-psychology-service-eps/>



The Wheels on the Bus



Activity Ideas for Parents and Carers

A resource by Gloucestershire County Council
Educational Psychology Service

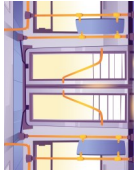




The Wheels on the Bus



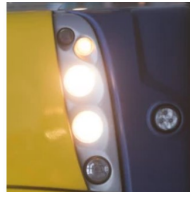
The wheels on the bus turn round and round, round and round, round and round
The wheels on the bus turn round and round



The doors on the bus open and shut, open and shut, open and shut
The doors on the bus open and shut
All day long



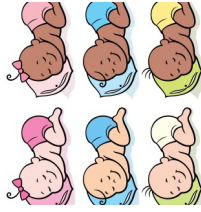
The lights on the bus flash on and off, on and off, on and off
The lights on the bus flash on and off
All day long



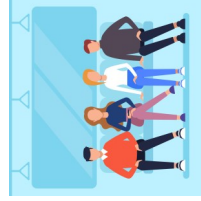
The wipers on the bus go swish swish swish, swish swish swish
The wipers on the bus go swish swish swish
All day long



The babies on the bus are fast a sleep
shhhhhhhh shhhhhhhh
The babies on the bus are fast a sleep
All day long



The horn on the bus goes beep beep beep, beep beep beep, beep beep beep
The horn on the bus goes beep beep beep
All day long



The people on the bus all giggle and chat, giggle and chat, giggle and chat
The people on the bus all giggle and chat
All day long

Exploring Stories

- Looking through books and stories based on transport and journeys.
 - Talking about different characters, events and sequences in stories.
 - Creating new stories when on trips and journeys.
 - Listening to audio stories in the car.
 - Remembering different trips with your child and retelling these*.
 - Sequencing past trips and journeys made with your child*.
- (**Any pictures you have of these past trips and journeys may be helpful resources to use during these activities*)



Exploring Words and Letters

- Learning new words. For example, parts of vehicles when looking at cars and vehicles in real life.
- Playing rhyming games with words. For example, starting with a central word and creating rhyming strings by changing the first letter (car = far, bar, tar)
- Finding different letters on vehicle number plates.
- Looking for words on signs in the environment. For example, village, town and shop signs.
- Playing 'I Spy' games when on trips and journeys.



Mark Making and Writing

- Developing lists and labels with your child. For example, shopping lists, lists of items to pack in a bag for a trip and name labels to put on luggage and bags.
- Providing paint on a large sheet of paper and getting your child to run small world vehicles through paint to create marks and patterns.
- Creating different roads and maps on paper with pens and pencils or on pavements and walls with chalks.
- Drawing pictures of vehicles and labelling the different parts with your child.



Exploring Numbers and Counting

- Counting different coloured, or types, of vehicles when on journeys.
- Labelling small world cars with numbers and developing numbered car parking spaces on paper for your child to match the cars to.
- Board games which involve counting on or back using a dice.
- Making a bus game where people are added or taken away 1-2 at a time.
- Exploring numerals on car number plates.
- Creating bingo games for journeys. For example, 1 train, 2 bridges, 3 cows, 4 yellow cars, 5 lorries.



Creative Activities

- Think of new verses for 'The Wheels on the Bus' song with actions.
- Using musical instruments to play when singing 'The Wheels on the Bus' song.
- Making vehicles out of junk modelling, Duplo, Lego or 2D shapes (square, triangle, circle, rectangle).
- Creating pictures of journeys and trips out of different media. For example, coloured pencils, pens, paints and chalks.
- Developing roads and villages or towns on paper to support small world play.
- Bus role play - set up chairs like a bus and provide money and tickets.



Road Safety

- Talking about the importance of holding hands when near, or crossing, a road.
- Looking and listening for cars and vehicles when out.
- Using zebra and pedestrian crossings - talking them through how to carry this out safely and what to look for. For example, vehicles stopping, holding hands, red and green figures, lights and sounds.
- Practising 'stop' and 'go' with your child through games. For example, at home get your child to move about in different ways when you say 'go' and to stand still when you say 'stop'.

