

Rhythm and Rhyme

Today's curriculum post is all about rhymes. This term's phonics focus is Rhythm and Rhymes and it is a key part of children's language development.

Nursery rhymes are often children's first introduction to rhythm, rhyme and repetition, which research claims babies respond to, as they spend nine months with a non-stop rhythmical heartbeat.

Singing encourages the expression of language and nursery rhymes offer a set of new, sometimes complex, vocabulary that we don't often use in everyday speech.

Before children can recognise words or sounds, they are listening to songs, poems and rhymes. As they are listening, they are creating mental images in their minds and developing comprehension skills.

Rhymes help children to develop auditory skills, as they listen, they discriminate between sounds. Repetition can help children to identify phonemes within words and understand syllable patterns. Research has shown that children who can rhyme become proficient readers. Reciting and singing rhymes to each other helps to develop phonemic awareness.

Pupils will begin to recognise words that don't rhyme, they will anticipate missing words at the end of a phrase and begin to create rhyming strings such as: 'pop, top, clon, flop.'

When children recite rhymes, they are learning to articulate words, modulate their voices and enunciate clearly.

Pupils develop their mouth and tongue muscles by saying different sounds in a rhyme, which is important when starting to read and learning how to pronounce letter sounds.

Learning new rhymes encourages active listening and concentrating. Memory skills improve as children learn rhymes off by heart from a young age.

Singing nursery rhymes is often pupils' first steps into oral storytelling and reciting poetry which will be built upon as they progress through school.

Nursery Rhymes and Early Mathematics

Children love singing and number songs can be used to support the teaching of counting, addition and subtraction.

The nursery rhyme 'Five Currant Buns' uses actions to add meaning and understanding to mathematical vocabulary.

Simple subtraction is introduced as the buns are taken away and positional language and shapes are mentioned, 'round, on top.'

Also, money is exchanged in return for the buns which opens up possibilities for teaching money in a practical context.

Rhymes that involve finger counting show children that fingers can represent numbers. When children are holding up their finger and counting on them these patterns help to support mathematical predictions and reasoning skills. Using fingers when counting improves coordination and fine motor skills.

Nursery rhymes can develop children's creativity and imagination when engaging in role play activities.

They could be making their own hot cross buns to sell in the mud kitchen, putting the kettle on for Polly in the home corner or experimenting with different ways of coming down the tunnel hill just like Jack and Jill did!

Songs with actions help children's physical skills such as balance, co-ordination and strength. When performing the rhyme 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes,' children are using arm and shoulder muscles. As they tip forwards to touch knees and toes, they use their core strength and balance.

Additional Information

Home Involvement -

- * You could learn some nursery rhymes to share with your children - both in English and in any other languages spoken at home.

- * You could make some props together using junk modelling to go with your favourite rhymes to perform to friends and families.

- * You could make up your own nursery rhymes by changing the lyrics but keeping the tune the same.

- * You could play games with rhyming words - following poems such as 'Don't Put Mustard in the Custard'. Keep the sentence the same, but change the rhyming words - ie 'don't put peas on your knees...' Or change the theme 'I like ..., and I don't like...' ie - I like bears and I don't like pears. - You can watch the poet Michael Rosen reciting his poem

here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oaq3gzwei0> (please always supervise your children when online).

We would love to see and hear any rhymes that you manage to do at home! Please upload pictures and videos onto Tapestry.