

Top 100 Nursery Rhymes



15 reasons why we should teach Nursery Rhymes

1. 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.
- Nursery rhymes:
2. are the second most influential way to improve language development (reading stories is number 1.)
 3. build vocabulary. Words are heard in context and often include words that children are less likely to pick up in everyday language. Ofsted recognises the important role of teachers to introduce new vocabulary (mentioned 5 times in the Early Years Inspection handbook 2019)
 4. expand imagination.
 5. support sequencing skills.
 6. are mini stories – some of the first young children will be able to follow and understand.
 7. are repetitive - strengthening brain connections.
 8. introduce pre-skills necessary for reading and writing, such as auditory discrimination, concentration, rhythm and rhyme, sound discrimination. They are packed full of literary devices such as similes (the fleece that is “white as snow”), onomatopoeia (“pop goes the weasel”) and alliteration (“sing a song of sixpence”).
 9. allow the youngest children to speak and understand in full sentences.
 10. are an early form of poetry.
 11. enable children to become interested in the rhythm and patterns of language in a way that listening to stories does not provide.
 12. are easy to remember and retell - without a book as a prompt.
 13. are portable, they can be enjoyed anytime, anyplace, anywhere!
 14. are an easy resource for parents to follow-up at home
 15. are fun!

NURSERY RHYME Activities

- Miss out rhyming words: encourage children to finish the line.
- Change words to make your own personalised rhymes, for example, ‘One for the master, one for the dame and one for Amaya, who lives down the lane.’
- Allow children to devise new actions.
- Clap along and establish a steady beat.
- Say the wrong words and let children correct you.
- Make a nursery rhyme ‘prop’ box by collecting items that feature in your favourites.
- Act out rhymes.

Website links:

<http://kidsnurseryrhymes.co.uk> free mp3 download facility

100 Nursery rhyme videos: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-a-to-z-index/z4ddgwx>

World Nursery Rhyme week: <https://www.worldnurseryrhymeweek.com> (16-20 Nov.2020)

References:

EEF Working with Parents to Support Children’s Learning 2019

Sue Cowley, ‘100 Nursery Rhymes’

June O’ Sullivan: owner Leyf nurseries EY summit June 2020

Roger McGough in TES Jan 2018

Top 100 rhymes being taught by teachers 2018 (alphabetical order)

Key: **green** = most popular **Covid friendly**:- big actions outside, no physical contact

- * A Big Red Bus
- * A Frog He Would A-Wooing Go
- * Alice the Camel
- * Ally Bally
- * Animal Fair
- * Apples and Bananas
- * As I Was Going to St Ives
- * Baa, Baa, Black (White and Pink) Sheep
- * Big Red Combine Harvester
- * **Bobby Shaftoe**
- * Christmas is Coming
- * Cluck, Cluck, Cluck, Cluck, Cluck, Good Morning, Mrs Hen
- * Cobber, Cobbler, Mend My Shoe
- * Ding Dong Dell
- * **Dingle, Dangle Scarecrow**
- * Don't Care, Didn't Care
- * **Down in the Jungle**
- * Down in Yonder Meadow Where the Green Grass Blows
- * Dr Foster Went to Gloucester
- * Five Cheeky Monkeys
- * Five Currant Buns
- * Five Fat Peas in a Pod
- * Five Fat Sausages
- * **Five Green and Speckled Frogs**
- * Five Little Elephants
- * Five Little Firefighters
- * Five Little Ladybirds Sitting in a Tree
- * **Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer**
- * **Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed**
- * **Five Little Ducks**
- * Frère Jacques
- * **Goosey Gander**
- * Happy Hippo
- * **Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes**
- * Henry's Happy Hair Shop
- * **Hey Diddle**
- * Hi Ho Tippety Toe
- * Hi Jock My Cuddy
- * Hickory Dickory Dock
- * **Horsey Don't You Stop**
- * **Humpty Dumpty**
- * Hush Little Baby
- * **I Am the Music Man**
- * I Can Sing a Rainbow
- * I Had a Tiny Turtle
- * I Know a Teddy Bear
- * I Know an Old Woman Who Swallowed a Fly

- * I Had a Little Pony
- * I Got Eaten by a Boa Constrictor
- * I Saw a Mouse
- * I Want Someone to Buy Me a Pony
- * If You're Happy and You Know It
- * I'm a Greedy Crocodile
- * I'm a Little Teapot
- * I'm Going to Kentucky
- * Incy Wincy Spider
- * Jack and Jill
- * Jack be Nimble
- * Jelly on the Plate
- * Ladybird, Ladybird
- * Lavender's Blue
- * Little Arabella Miller
- * Little Bo Peep
- * Little Boy Blue
- * Little Bunny Fou
- * Little Jack Horner
- * Little Mousie Brown
- * Little Peter Rabbit
- * Little Polly Flinders
- * Little Rabbit Foo
- * Little Red Tractor
- * Little Tommy Tucker
- * London Bridge is Falling Down
- * Mary Had a Little Lamb
- * Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary
- * Michael Finnegan
- * Miss Polly had a Dolly
- * Monday's Child
- * Mr Knickerbocker
- * My Mummy Told Me
- * Oats and Beans and Barley Grow
- * Oh Mary Mack
- * Oh My Darling Clementine
- * Old MacDonald
- * Old Mother Hubbard
- * Old King Cole
- * On a Hill There Stands a Lady
- * One Finger One Thumb
- * One Little Finger
- * One Man Went to Mow
- * One, Two, Buckle my Shoe
- * One, Two, Three, Four, Five
- * Oranges and Lemons (involves contact)
- * Pat-a-Cake
- * Pease Porridge Hot
- * Peter Rabbit Has a Fly Upon his Nose
- * Piggy on the Railway
- * Point to the Ceiling
- * Puffa Train, Puffa Train

- * Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat
- * Rain, Rain, Go Away
- * Ride a Cock Horse to Banbury Cross
- * Ring a Ring o' Roses
- * Rock a Bye Baby
- * Roly Poly, Up
- * Round and Round the Garden
- * Row, Row, Row your Boat
- * Rub a Dub Dub
- * Sally the Camel
- * Sandy Boy/Girl
- * See the Little Bunnies Sleep
- * Simple Simon
- * Sing a Song of Sixpence
- * Ye Cannae Shove Your Granny off a Bus
- * Skinamarinki
- * Ten Fat Sausages
- * Ten Green Bottles
- * The Bear Went over the Mountain
- * The Farmer's in his Dell (contact)
- * The Grand Old Duke of York
- * The Lion and the Unicorn
- * The Queen of Hearts
- * The Three Little Kittens
- * The Wheels on the Bus
- * There Once Was a Girl With a Curl
- * There Once Was a Windmill in Old Amsterdam
- * There Sits ... Washing her Clothes
- * There was a Crocodile
- * There was a Crooked Man
- * There was a Great Big Moose
- * There Was a Man Lived in the Moon
- * There Was an Old Lady Who Lived in a Shoe
- * There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly
- * There Were Ten in the Bed (contact)
- * There's a Hole in My Bucket
- * There's a Worm at the Bottom of the Garden
- * This is the House that Jack Built
- * This is the Way the Ladies Ride
- * This Little Piggy Went to Market
- * Three Blind Mice
- * Three Crows
- * Tiny Turtle Tim
- * Today's Monday
- * Tom, Tom the Piper's Son
- * Twinkle Twinkle, Chocolate Bar
- * Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star
- * Two Little Dickie Birds, Sitting on a Wall
- * Tommy Thumb
- * Tony Chestnut
- * Up the Wooden Hill to Bedfordshire
- * Walking in the Jungle

* Wee Willie Winkie

When I Was Off to the Forest

* Wind the Bobbin Up

* Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

+ a few late additions

Five Little Snowmen

Georgie Porgie

Hitty Pitty

Hot Cross Buns

I Had a Little Nut Tree

Ten Men Went to Mow

In and Out the Dusty Bluebells (contact)

I Saw a Ship A-sailing

Jack Sprat

Polly Put the Kettle On

Pop Goes the Weasel

Ten Men Went to Mow

Culturally diverse rhymes

- <https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/gallery/2014/oct/13/culturally-diverse-nursery-rhymes-gallery> has a gallery of Nursery rhymes from around the world – taken from the book: Over the Hills and Far Away by Elizabeth Hamill
- Cbeebies has 8 Nursery rhymes in a West Indian style.