

STEAM

ABC  
Language  
& LiteracyPhysical  
DevelopmentMusic &  
Movement

TOPIC	ACTIVITY NAME
Discovering Together	Sing Me a Rhyme



## OBJECTIVE

Children will participate in singing and moving to familiar rhyming songs. YT/LEL/C/2/a/18M.2

## MATERIALS &amp; SET UP

- Book: "My First Book of Nursery Rhymes," by Little Hippo Books
- Scan book in advance and mark pages with some familiar rhymes



## ROUTINES &amp; TEACHER TALK

1. Sit with children and show them the cover of the book. This activity can be done with large or small groups. If you begin informally with just a few children others are likely to join in the fun!
2. "This is a book of rhyming songs we can sing together! Let's take a look inside and choose a rhyme to sing."
3. Show children pictures of the familiar rhymes you have marked. Ask them questions to determine what might be familiar or of most interest to sing first. Involving them in the selection process will increase their engagement in the activity.
4. Smile and make eye contact with each child as you sing.
5. Include hand and finger movements such as opening and shutting your hands for the twinkling star, or motions for Jack going up, then tumbling down the hill.
6. Slow down if needed as children try to copy your words and movements. Make specific comments on their wonderful attempts!
7. "Bill, you must like the part where Jack tumbles down the hill. I see you laughing every time we make our hands go round and round!"
8. "It looks like a room full of twinkling stars with everyone opening and shutting their hands!"
9. Sing no more than 3 nursery rhymes at a time unless children use gestures and/or words to request more.
10. Singing with just your voices allows you to adjust your pace as needed, but if you prefer, you can easily find recordings of nursery rhymes on CDs or online.
11. Singing nursery rhymes regularly helps children to learn the words and motions, as well as building awareness of the rhythm and rhymes in each simple song.
12. Use these familiar songs during transition times such as waiting a turn to wash hands, waiting for food to be served, or even when coming in from outdoor play.
13. Build a tradition of singing nursery rhymes with children during diaper changes. This allows you to make special use of the limited one on one time you have with each child.
14. This simple ritual makes the diapering routine enjoyable for both you and the child.
15. Use the same rhyme for diapering all week, then change to another. Post the name of the rhyme you will sing in the changing area as a reminder to all caregivers.

LEARNING SUPPORT

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Some children may have shorter attention spans, keep those children engaged by providing them with a physical object related to the nursery rhymes. This can be something as simple as a small plastic bucket, a rubber star, or a picture of Humpty Dumpty taped to a popsicle stick. You can also use these same objects to support transition for those that may be resistant to move from center time to circle time or from circle time to diaper changing time. Walk over to those that are resisting transition and hand them the nursery rhyme prop. Guide them to where you want them to be and let them know that you need their help with the rhymes.
- Remember, toddlers can get very excited during music and movement activities. Try using a visual cue (like a small STOP sign or a red NO sign) and a verbal cue when you need children to FREEZE.

Children develop confidence and a sense of identity during shared rituals and routines. As young toddlers begin to learn the words and movements of familiar rhymes, they will likely feel competent and eagerly seek new learning challenges.

@Home Connections

Teacher Reflections