Especially for parents of infants!

More Infant Nursery Rhymes

Rhymes and Sound Awareness

Nursery rhymes are enjoyed by infants at even a very early age. Rhyming poems like those in this handout are sure to encourage your baby to listen, make sounds, and have fun!

What is the practice?

Nursery rhymes that include the same sounds along with adult hand movements are highly entertaining to young children! Rhymes provide your child opportunities to listen and begin to notice when sounds are similar and different.

What does the practice look like?

Infant nursery rhymes are short, silly poems that introduce infants to the world of sounds and speech. Nursery rhymes are both entertaining and such fun. Your child will want to take an active part in getting you to say them again. Your baby will make hand movements, sounds, and try to repeat words that he hears.



How do you do the practice?

Here are a few nursery rhymes that your child will find fun and enjoyable. Pick a nursery rhyme that you think will catch your child's interest. Then settle into a position facing your child. It's time for fun!

Bumble Bee, Bumble Bee

Bumble bee, bumble bee. (*Move your index finger in circles and "make it fly" toward your child.*)
Straight from the farm.
Bumble bee, bumble bee. (*Repeat the index finger movements.*)
Flies under your arm. (*Tickle the child under the arm while making a bee sound.*)

Little Fishes

Little fishes in a brook. (*Make hands move like fish.*)
Baby caught them with a hook. (*Pretend to hook a fish on a fishing rod.*)
Fry them, fry them in a pan. (*Pretend to hold a frying pan.*)
Eat the fish as fast as you can. (*Pretend to eat the "fish."*)

Rock-a-Bye, Baby

Rock-a-bye, Baby, on a tree top. (*Cradle the baby in your arms.*)
When the wind blows, the cradle will rock. (*Rock the baby back and forth.*)
When the bough breaks, the cradle will fall. (*Gently put the baby on a sofa or bed.*)
And down will come baby, cradle and all. (*Tickle or kiss the child after placing him down.*)

How do you know the practice worked?

- Does your child pay attention to the different hand movements?
- Does your child listen for the "punch line" in the nursery rhyme?
- Does your child squeal and get excited when hearing the nursery rhyme?

CELL practices
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Take a look at more infant nursery rhymes

Tickled by Buzzing Bee



Chloe, 7 months old, is sitting on the floor facing her father. He asks his daughter if she wants to play "Bumble Bee." Chloe immediately starts moving her hands and fingers in a back-and-forth motion. "Bumble Bee" is a nursery-rhyme game her father has played with Chloe many times. Dad says the rhyme while using his index fingers to flutter about like a bee. While reciting the last part of the rhyme, he tickles Chloe under her arms while saying "Buzzzz!" Chloe smiles and laughs. Dad says, "It's Chloe's turn." Chloe tries to make bee movements and sounds as her dad says the nursery rhyme. She tries to tickle her dad while saying something that sounds like a bee sound. They play the back-and-forth, your turn/my turn game over and over.



Little Fishes

Seven-month-old Ethan is waiting in his baby seat while his mom makes him some lunch. Big sister Sophie entertains her baby brother with the game "Little Fishes." "Does Ethan want to hear 'Little Fishes'?" she asks. Ethan smiles and starts slapping his tray. Sophie begins the nursery rhyme by putting her hands around Ethan's hands. She makes a back-and-forth motion like a fish swimming. She says, "Ethan caught them with a hook," and pretends to catch a fish. Ethan tries to imitate her. She says the last verse of the rhyme. She and Ethan pretend to eat the fish with their hands up to their mouths and making "eating" sounds.

Accessible Fun

One-year-old Amanda has limited mobility. She has difficulties making the kinds of movements that are part of nursery rhymes. Amanda's mom has learned to say "Not to worry!" She uses stuffed animals that recite nursery rhymes when they are touched or squeezed. Mom shows Amanda one of the animals. It is one that Amanda has learned to make work so she can hear the nursery rhyme. As the nursery rhyme is playing, Mom makes the movements that go with the nursery rhyme for Amanda. Mom waits for Amanda to "tell" her she wants to hear the nursery rhyme again. She makes sounds and tries to reach for the stuffed animal to have Mom do it again.



IDEAs that Work

CELLpractices Is a publication of the Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL), funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (H326B060010). The opinions expressed, however, are those of CELL and not necessarily those of the U.S. Department of Education. Copyright © 2010 by the Orelena Hawks Puckett Institute, Asheville, North Carolina (www.puckett.org).