

# NURSERY RHYMES



- Research has shown that when a child knows eight or more nursery rhymes by heart, by the age of 4, that they are usually one of the best at reading and spelling by the age 8.

Nursery rhymes are important  
because...?

# Nursery Rhymes...

- are easy to repeat so become part of children's first sentences – when we sing or say nursery rhymes we tend to speak more slowly and clearly so children learn how the words are formed.
- help children practice pitch, volume and the rhythm of language
- are a great way to develop early phonics skills – through hearing and repeating nursery rhymes children have the opportunity to hear, identify and manipulate letter sounds.
- expand children's imagination – they often tell a story and create imagery.
- follow a clear sequence of events – often tell a story and contain a beginning, middle and end.
- teach early maths skills – many contain numbers, counting, colours and other maths vocabulary.
- take no more than 1 or 2 minutes to sing so this is any easy way to build up lots of repetition and can be done at any point during the day (tidy up time, getting coats on, walking to lunch etc.),

# Nursery Rhymes...

- improve vocabulary – children hear and use new words that they wouldn't come across in everyday language.
- provide examples of literacy devices – use of alliteration such as 'Goosey, Goosey Gander', onomatopoeia in 'Baa Baa Black Sheep', and rhyme.
- teach emotions – characters in rhymes experience a range of emotions, which can help children to understand and identify their own emotions and those of others.
- improve physical development – physical participation encourage children to develop their fine and gross motor skills, as well as balance, coordination and the skills needed to follow simple instructions.
- relatable to their own everyday experiences – conversations can then be encourage with children about these experiences and nursery rhymes (five little ducks – feeding ducks at the pond etc.).