

**Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.**

## Celebrating nursery rhymes

Take part in National Rhyme Week, usually celebrated in November, by exploring your children's favourite nursery rhymes.

### Learning aims

- To join in familiar nursery rhymes
- To express preferences for favourite nursery rhymes
- To enjoy social singing with peers
- To develop fine and gross motor skills.



### Resources

- A comfortable space to sing nursery rhymes, decorated with favourite nursery rhyme characters
- Props to support children's choice of nursery rhymes (optional)
- Images of nursery characters (to support non-verbal children's choices)
- Paper strips and tape for headbands
- Pencils, crayons, felt tips, glitter pens, etc. to decorate headbands with nursery characters.

### Activity outline

1. Observe babies and toddlers to identify their favourite nursery rhymes. For pre-school children, ask them to tell you what their favourite rhymes are and ask parents to share any nursery rhymes they enjoy together at home, in their home language (make a note of children's favourites nursery rhymes to ensure they are all included during your group singing session)
2. Talk to children about their favourite nursery rhymes and encourage them to decorate an individual headband with their favourite nursery rhyme characters
3. Once each child has completed a headband, secure the headband with tape to provide a comfortable fit
4. Decorate a space with nursery characters, objects and props to help celebrate nursery rhymes and provide an exciting space for children
5. Invite children into your prepared area, talk about which characters they can see and which nursery rhyme they belong to
6. Use the characters on the headbands to help children guess which is each person's favourite rhyme and then sing it together, making actions where possible

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7. If several children choose the same rhyme, find different ways to sing it, such as using quiet or loud voices, posh or grumpy voices and encourage pairs or individual children to sing it to their friends
8. Where possible, use props to support the nursery rhyme session.

### Extending the activity

- Create a book of children's favourite nursery rhymes to keep in your book area for children to look at during the session. Make a second copy to go in your parent lending library
- Invite parents to join you for a nursery rhyme session.

### Extending the activity

- [Publication: Music and movement](#)
- [Publication: Art of expression and creativity](#)