

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.

Activity: National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day celebrates the wonderful world of poetry and rhyme. This year's focus is 'counting' and our activity ideas below can be used to provide a fun-filled literacy celebration.

Learning aims

- Show interest in poems and rhymes
- Develop vocabulary
- Develop listening and attention
- Join in with repeated refrains.

Resources

- Children's favourite poems and rhymes
- Props to use as song choices (optional)
- Poetry and rhyme books
- A quiet space.



Activity outline

1. Prepare for National Poetry Day by talking to families about favourite rhymes from the child's home environment to incorporate into your poetry day
2. Explain to children that it is National Poetry Day and you are going to celebrate by singing some of your favourite number and counting rhymes. Talk to children about rhyming words and use a familiar rhyme as an example, e.g. '5 little ducks went swimming one **day**, over the hill and far **away**' or, '5 little monkeys jumping on the bed' (**bed/head/said**). Encourage children to identify examples of rhyming words in other songs and rhymes
3. Invite children to share their favourite rhymes. You may wish to use props as reminders of the range of songs the children regularly sing, for example, a frog to represent the 5 Little Speckled Frogs rhyme
4. Include any poems or rhymes that parents have shared with you, this could be practitioners retelling the poem or it could be listening to a recording of the parent reciting the poem
5. Choose a poem to read to the children, for example James Carter's 'Happy' poem <http://jamescarterpoet.co.uk/poems.html#happypoem>
6. Read the poem to the children. Start the poem for a second time and ask the children to share an example, e.g. 'Happy as a.....?'

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Extension ideas:

- Extend your poetry celebrations by including a favourite poem choice each day
- Encourage children to make up their own poems, for example, building on the happy poem by including other feelings - sad as a..... excited as a....

NDNA products to support you with this activity:

- Online course - [Vocabulary and Early Language Skills](#)
- Online programme – [Communication and Language Champions](#).