



# Nursery Rhymes



Research has found 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 in their class by the age of 8!

## What do children learn from nursery rhymes?

- 1. Nursery rhymes are easy to repeat so become part of your child's first sentences.**  
When we sing or say nursery rhymes we tend to speak more slowly and clearly so children learn how words are formed, which makes it easier for little ones to join in.
- 2. Nursery rhymes help children practice pitch, volume and the rhythm of language**  
Music and rhythms help little ones learn a steady beat which helps with language and reading development.
- 3. Nursery rhymes are a great way to develop early phonics.**  
Through hearing and repeating nursery rhymes children have the opportunity to hear, identify and manipulate letter sounds.
- 4. Nursery rhymes expand children's imagination.**  
Nursery rhymes often tell a story, which develops the imagination.
- 5. Nursery rhymes follow a clear sequence of events.**  
They often tell a story and contain beginning, middle and end.
- 6. Nursery rhymes teach early maths skills.**  
Many contain numbers, counting, colour and other maths vocabulary such as weight and size.
- 7. Nursery rhymes improve vocabulary.**  
Children hear and use new words that they wouldn't come across in everyday language. For example in Jack and Jill they 'fetch' a 'pail' of water.
- 8. Nursery rhymes provide examples of literacy devices that make writing more interesting.**  
They use alliteration, where a set of words begin with the same sound, such as the 'g' in 'Goosey, Goosey Gander' and onomatopoeia, where a word resembles the sound it describes, such as the 'Baa' in 'Baa, Baa black sheep'. Rhyme is also a way to emphasise words.
- 9. Nursery rhymes teach emotions.**  
The characters in rhymes experience a range of emotions, which can help little ones understand and identify their own emotions and those of others.
- 10. Can develop physical skills**  
When actions are linked to words in the nursery rhyme, it helps boost motor skills and improves rhythm and movement.

**Nursery Rhymes are fun and transportable!**

**Below is a link to the BBC nursery rhymes**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-songs-index/zhwdgwx>

