



ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONERS

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Rhyme a Day Challenge: 18th – 22nd November

We have chosen 5 popular nursery rhymes for this year's 'Rhyme a Day' challenge and will focus on each song in the following order:

- Monday 18th November: Baa Baa Black Sheep
- Tuesday 19th November: Down in the Jungle
- Wednesday 20th November: Incy Wincy Spider
- Thursday 21st November: Row Row Row Your Boat
- Friday 22nd November: Two Little Dickie Birds

Activity Ideas

Over the following pages, we have put together some suggested activity ideas for each of the 5 rhymes.

Please share your own activity ideas with us on social media or email Kim Cunningham at: info@worldnurseryrhymeweek.com if you would like us to share your ideas for you.

Connect with us on social media

Website: www.musicbugs.co.uk

Facebook: [@WorldNurseryRhymeWeek](https://www.facebook.com/WorldNurseryRhymeWeek)

Twitter: [@worldrhymeweek](https://twitter.com/worldrhymeweek)

Instagram: [@worldnurseryrhymeweek](https://www.instagram.com/worldnurseryrhymeweek)

Pinterest: www.pinterest.co.uk/MusicBugsUK/WNRW

Use the hashtag **#rhymeweek** on social media!

Disclaimer

Please note that by using or following these activities you agree to take full responsibility for the safety of the children in your care. Some activities may need parental permission, others will not necessarily be appropriate for younger children. We recommend that a risk assessment is carried out prior to implementing the activities and that all children are constantly supervised throughout.

Acknowledgements

With grateful thanks to Heather McAvan at **Mrs Mactivity** for the provision of resources: www.mrsmactivity.co.uk

With grateful thanks to Abi Cotton at **Piccolo Music** for the song downloads and Musical Ideas sheets: <http://www.piccolomusic.co.uk>

Baa Baa Black Sheep

Weigh the Bags

Fill several bags with different items and ask the children to guess which bag is the heaviest/lightest. Using scales, weigh the bags.

Emergent writing

Use the half-lined paper in your resource pack to encourage mark making and emergent writing. In the unlined area ask the children to draw illustrations from the rhyme.

Discussion

Discuss sheep shearing. Show the children a video of a sheep being sheared of its wool. Why do sheep need to be sheared? What will the wool be used for?

Role Play

Use the role playing masks in your resource pack to act out the rhyme.

Numeracy

Allocate different numbers of sheep or other farm animals into fields or pens using a farm set. Which area has more animals? Which has fewer? Next, arrange the animals in size order starting with the smallest

Heavier or lighter

What is heavier or lighter than a bag of wool? Use weighing scales and encourage children to weigh different items.

Arts and crafts

Create a mixed media collage of sheep using scrap materials.

Textile Comparison

Compare woollen fabrics with other textiles such as leather, hessian, silk, cotton, denim.

Role Play

Set up a farm. Name your farm, discuss what animals will live there. What crops will you grow there and what jobs need doing around the farm to make the farm run smoothly.

Down in the Jungle

Discussion:

You are going on a trip to the jungle. What do you need to take with you? What animals might you see? What animals will you need to be careful of?

Ordering:

Cut out the animals from your colouring in templates. You may also want to draw and colour in other animals you may find in the jungle. Organise the animals in size order.

Matching Game

Use the rock stickers in your resource pack, colour and stick to pebbles or cardboard. Now turn them over and ask each child to take it in turn to find a matching pair.

Listening game:

Find and listen to recordings of animal sounds. Can the children guess which animal is making the sound? With older children, add some sounds of animals not found in a jungle to make the task more challenging. Can they identify which sounds come from jungle animals and which sounds do not?

Move around the Jungle:

Explain to the children they are going to move around like jungle animals. Split the children into two groups and ask each group to act out the movements of their chosen animals for the other group to guess.

Camouflage Collage

Create a Jungle Collage using a range of mixed media and scrap materials. Add some Jungle animals and try to camouflage them in their surroundings.

What can you see?

Using binoculars, go outside with pen and paper and make careful notes of your surroundings. What can you see? Hide jungle animal figures around the outside space for added interest.

Wild Animals Conga Line

Children stomp like elephants, walk tall like giraffes, prowl like lions, and swing like monkeys around the room behind each other in a line.

Incy Wincy Spider

Group Activity

Design a home for Incy Wincy. What would her home look like? What items will she need?

Counting

Using plastic spiders, count them and sort them according to size. Then introduce the concept of 'one more', "if I give you one more, how many do you have now?" For older children, encourage counting in multiples of 2.

Make your own spider

How many legs does a spider have? Make spiders using round balls of play dough and pasta quills or pipe cleaners for legs.

Spiders Web

Using a paper plate, punch holes around the edges and use wool to thread through the holes.

Circle Time

Have the children hold hands in a circle. Lead one child towards the other end of the circle and have them duck beneath a pair of linked hands. Other children may follow. Repeat this step a few times so that the children will be 'tangled in a web'. Then encourage them to untangle themselves from the spider's web without letting go of their partners hand.

Water Play

Fill a large tray or tub with water. Add plastic pipes and spiders plus small watering cans and jugs. Encourage the children to experiment with pouring and measuring.

Exploration

Go on a bug hunt, and try and find your own 'Incy Wincy Spider'. If possible, take photos of their webs.

Group discussion.

Talk about the weather, do your children prefer the sunshine or the rain, what other types of weather are there? Using a phone app, look at the weather forecast for different countries around the world.

Row Row Row Your Boat

Group Discussion

Plan a voyage together on a boat, where would you travel to and what would you need to pack for the voyage? Ask children to write out travel tickets and invite their friends and family on the trip.

Different Types Of Boat

Look at different types of boat and the different jobs that they do. E.G Cruise Liners that carry passengers or Fishing Boats to trawl for fish. Look at how different boats are powered, such as wind, oar, engine.

Make a boat

Make fruity boats out of oranges and lemons. Do they float? What about other fruit? What happens if you add extra weight to them?

When The Wind Blows

Using the boats above, add sails made of paper or foil and fix with a lollipop stick. Now experiment to find the best way to propel the boat across water by blowing through straws or using a handheld fan.

Bodies Of Water

Use Google Maps to find and identify the different bodies of water nearest to you in your country. Can you find the sea, the nearest river and stream?

Build A Boat

Use boxes or cushions to create a 'boat' and climb aboard for a magical adventure. Fill the boat with story books about sea travel and far away voyages.

Tuff Tray

Dye spaghetti or rice in different hues of green and blue to represent the sea. Add toy boats, shells and sea creatures to create an ocean scene.

Looking after our seas and rivers

How can we help to look after the sea? Discuss pollution, boats, overfishing and litter. How do these things impact the ocean and sea animals? If you are able to, organise a litter-pick at your nearest beach.

Two Little Dickie Birds

Group discussion

What would it feel like to fly? If you had wings, where would you like to fly to? Have you flown on a plane?

Compare and Contrast

Weighing – how many ‘things’ weigh the same as one toy bird? Use weighing scales with multilink cubes, feathers, dried pasta etc)

Nest building

Look at online footage of a bird building a nest. What materials does it use? Build your own nest in class using scrap materials such as shredded paper, fabric scraps and wool.

Feather or Fur

Provide children with a list of different animal names and ask them whether they have feathers or fur?

Construction

Build walls using different types of bricks – Lego, wooden blocks, cardboard boxes etc. Who can build the tallest wall? The strongest wall?

Observation Area

Provide a bird table or bird feeding station outside. Ensure children have access to binoculars and notepads so that they can make observations about what they see.

Mark Marking

Choose the Half Lined Border template supplied to encourage mark-making and emergent writing. Children can draw their own illustration for the rhyme and use the lined area for mark making or writing practice.

Pairs

Explore quantities in relation to the number 2: look for things that come in pairs; e.g. socks, shoes, gloves (or collect 2 objects, two cups, two toys, two teddies etc).