

## Song Sticks Literacy Activity



You will need:

- Craft sticks (lolly sticks)
- Sticky Labels (or glue and paper)
- Pens
- Tumbler/small cup

Glue some simple pictures or symbols that represent you and your child's favourite nursery rhymes on to the end of the craft sticks.

For example – you might draw a teapot for 'I'm a little teapot'.

Once your child has attached a picture, write the name of the nursery rhyme on the craft stick.



You can make as many as you like!

Put the sticks into your tumbler/cup. Invite your child to choose one, and guess which nursery rhyme it is before you read the title to your child. Then you can have fun singing or saying it together.

Hazeldene children received a nursery rhyme booklet towards the end of last year. Maybe you might like to use it alongside the Rhyme sticks?

### *So.....what are the benefits of Nursery Rhymes?*

They introduce children to the concept of telling a story, promote social skills and boost language development. This is a crucial starting point for learning to read and spell.



### *Did you know....?*

Initial steps in early reading skills begin long before a child starts school. Good readers have good language and speech skills.

## What are the Children Learning?



This activity links to the Curriculum for Excellence in the following areas:

### Literacy & English

'I enjoy exploring and playing with the patterns and sounds of language and can use what I learn.' **Enjoyment & Choice LIT 0-01a / LIT 0-11a / LIT 0-20a**

'I enjoy exploring and choosing stories and other texts to watch, read or listen to, and can share my likes and dislikes.' **Enjoyment & Choice LIT 0-01b / LIT 0-11b**

### Skills:

- Listen to and recite rhymes, songs and poems.
- Identify and produce syllables in names and words.
- Detect, predict and generate rhyme.
- Show an interest in print, texts and pictures.

Research shows a strong link between children's knowledge of nursery rhymes and later reading skills:

There is a strong relation between early knowledge of nursery rhymes and success in reading and spelling over the next three years even after differences in social background, I.Q and the children's phonological skills at the start of the project are taken into account. This raises the question of how nursery rhymes have such an effect. Our answer is that knowledge of nursery rhymes enhances children's phonological sensitivity which in turn helps them to learn to read.

[P E Bryant](#), [L Bradley](#), [M Maclean](#), [J Crossland](#)

J Child Lang 1989 Jun;16(2):407-28

Frieda Allan, Feb 21

