

“The Child who knows four nursery rhymes by the age of four will naturally be a better reader by the age of eight”.

National Literacy Trust

Incy Wincy Spider

Climbed up the water spout,

Down came the rain
and washed the
spider out,

Out came the
sunshine and dried
up all the rain,

Incy Wincy spider climbed up the spout
again



Hickory Dickory Dock
The mouse ran up the
clock
The clock struck one
The mouse ran down
Hickory Dickory Dock

Little Miss Muffet,
Sat on her Tuffet
Eating her curds and
whey
Along came a spider
and sat down beside her
And frightened Miss
Muffet away.



“Phonological Awareness is the strongest predictor of children's future reading and spelling abilities..”

Weitzman, E, Greenberg, J (2010) ABC and Beyond. Hanen Early Language Programme

For more songs, rhymes and ideas

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<http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug>

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If you require any further information, please contact us.

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How to help your child
develop

Early Reading and
Writing Skills



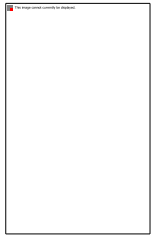
*Before children learn to
read and write
they must be able to
hear and play with the sounds in spoken
words.*

It's all about using your ears!

Phonological Awareness

You may have heard the term Phonological Awareness (PA).

- PA is about knowing that language is made up of individual sounds.
- PA is about hearing and playing with those sounds.



English may not be your first language so use the language you know best to develop your child's PA.

Listening

PA is all about using your ears. It takes practice to hear and tune in to individual sounds.

- Play listening games like “Simon Says ...”
- Try going on a **sound walk** outdoors and chat about what you hear e.g. cars, birds etc.
- **Sound lotto** is a fun way to develop listening skills.
- **Read to your child at least once a day.**

Rhyme

Rhyme (the sound at the end of the word). Enjoy singing along to rhymes and reading rhyming stories. Fun rhymes will help hold your child's attention and teach them about the sounds and patterns in words.

- Try changing some of the words in nursery rhymes

Humpty Dumpty Sat on a ball

- Play word games like **I Spy with rhyming words** “I spy something that rhymes with cat!”

Syllables

Syllabification is when we break down words into smaller speech parts, **syllables**.

e.g. **e-le-phant** **blan-ket** **di-no-saur**

- Try **clapping your child's name** and other familiar words

An-na, spa-ghet-ti spi-der-man

When children are able to clap/beat/say one syllable at a time, reading will (when the time is right) become much easier as your child will be able to break words into parts.

Initial Sounds

Knowing that words begin with different sounds that you hear.

sock begins with the sound /s/ not the letter **S**
fish begins with the sound /f/ not the letter **F**

- Play “**I Spy**” with **initial sounds** e.g. “I spy with my little eye something that starts with /f/” (fish).

Remember to use the sound you hear, not the letter name.



MUSIC & song

Don't forget to **listen to music and sing songs together**. Music and literacy are perfect partners. Music develops listening skills, attention, memory, vocabulary, rhythm, sound patterns, pitch and much more.

And above all, it is **fun.**