



HELLO PARENTS,

In early infancy, nursery rhymes and songs pave the way for language, learning and communication. When we sing songs and rhymes with young children we are letting them hear repetitive lines and listen to the sounds of language. As children grow, nursery rhymes continue to be a key source of interaction and learning between children and adults. In this newsletter, we will provide you with activities to support children's language development, literacy and reading skills.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW

MATERIALS:

- Colourful scarves

DIRECTIONS:

- Use the scarf to cover your face and then peek beneath the scarf at your child.
- Try peeking from different angles and sides to keep your child engaged and looking for you.
- Cover your child with the scarf and do the same.
- Adding music introduces rhythm and beat which can encourage speech development.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" song.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

TWINKLE, TWINKLE YELLOW STAR

MATERIALS:

- Construction paper (different colours)
- Scissors

DIRECTIONS:

- Make coloured stars from construction paper.
- Sing the song:
Twinkle, twinkle yellow star,
How I wonder where you are?
Let's go looking here and there,
Let's go looking everywhere.
Twinkle, twinkle, yellow star,
How I wonder where you are?
- Ask your child to find the colour you are singing about.
- You can change the name of the colour each time you sing the song.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Twinkle Twinkle Colours" song.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

SO MANY CRAYONS

MATERIALS:

- Box
- Crayons

DIRECTIONS:

- Place the crayons in a box.
- Chant the following rhyme and have your child find the crayon colour that completes each rhyme.
So many crayons, they are dancing in my head!
Can you find a crayon that rhymes with bed? (red)
So many crayons, I could draw a crown.
Can you find a crayon that rhymes with frown? (brown)
So many crayons, that is true.
Can you find a crayon that rhymes with glue? (blue)
So many crayons for us today.
Can you find a crayon that rhymes with tray? (gray)
So many crayons, they make me feel mellow.
Can you find a crayon that rhymes with hello? (yellow)

[Click here](#) to listen to "Colour Song" by Learning Station.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

FIND THE MATCHING COLOURS

MATERIALS:

- 5 plastic empty bottles
- Food colouring
- 5 small paper plates
- Coloured pencils

DIRECTIONS:

- Fill the empty plastic bottles with water.
- Tint each bottle with food colouring to create red, blue, yellow, green and brown.
- Cut out the middle of each paper plate to make five rings.
- Colour the rings red, blue, yellow, green and brown.
- Arrange the coloured water bottles on the ground.
- Players stand a few steps away from the bottles, and take turns tossing the colourful rings to the bottles with the corresponding colours.

[Click here](#) to read "Mrs. McNosh Hangs Up Her Wash" by Sarah Weeks.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

RHYMING BINGO

MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Pens
- Scissors
- Container

DIRECTIONS:

- Create calling cards with words that rhyme with colours. For example: Jello – yellow; wink – pink; bite – white, etc.
- Each player makes their own Bingo card. The bingo card should be a grid, which has 3 rows and 3 columns.
- Fill each square with the name of a colour. Ensure to leave the centre square as a "free space".
- Shuffle and place the calling cards in a container.
- Draw one card at a time and call out the word.
- You must find the name of the colour on the Bingo card that rhymes with the word on the calling card.
- Anyone who covers three words in a row shouts out "Bingo" and they win that round.

[Click here](#) for "Read Aloud Books".



A TIP FOR TODAY

- Encourage children to join in nursery rhymes and songs with their own rhythms, singing, clapping or using musical instruments, such as: banging a drum, rattling some bells, etc.
- Read rhyming books and when your child is familiar with them, pause to let your child fill in the rhyming words. Talk about what other words might fit into the space that also rhyme.