



 **bookspring** presents

## Nursery Rhymes and Songs



**Goal: Allow children to experience complex language in a fun and engaging way through rhymes and singing.**

### BookSpring will provide:

Read-aloud selections

Storytelling felt boards (3-5 year olds)

Finger plays and puppets (1-2 year olds)

Lyric sheets and finger play instructions

Nursery Rhyme costume

Plush characters/animals that match theme.

### What to do **BEFORE** reading the story

- Seat the children near you on the carpet (use teacher and volunteer help). Sit on a low chair so that all of the children can hear the story and see the illustrations. Proximity is important for children to stay involved in the activity.
- **For Infants:** Using the lyrics sheets for yourself, sing through the songs with the babies and caregivers. Fully involve the babies by doing the actions with them. Introduce them to 2 songs before reading the book. Repeat as infant's attention span allows.
- **For Toddlers:** Introduce yourself and your puppet friend. First, sing a song that is familiar to the children or teachers: the ABC song or Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. Introduce a new story or song using your favorite puppet(s.)
- **For Preschoolers:** Set up the storytelling board. Choose one or two of your favorite rhymes to introduce. Ask the children to say the rhyme with you as you place the characters on the board. When you read the rhyme again, invite individual children to place the characters on the felt board. As you repeat, the rhyme, leave out the rhyming word at the end of a phrase. The children will fill in the correct word for you! If they are unsure, guide them.

### What to do **DURING** the story

- While reading, encourage the children to participate in the story with you. For example: Read a rhyme, all say the rhyme together and then sing the rhyme if possible.
- Ensure that every child has the opportunity to look at the details in the illustrations.

### What to do **AFTER** reading the story

- Take the time before the distribution to repeat a favorite rhyme or sing a favorite nursery song.
- Talk to the children about what Books For Me means and tell them that they are going to get to choose a book of their very own.
- (For infants and toddlers) Allow each child to choose from 2 or 3 books.
- (For Preschoolers) Explain the book selection process. Tell the children they will walk around the tables so that they can see all of the books. Then, when the teacher says to choose a book, they can choose one book he/she would like to take home and keep forever. The children will take their books to their teacher, who will write their names in their books.
- After the children have selected their books, volunteers and center teachers should sit down with the children to begin reading the books the children selected for a short period of time.

## Suggested Read-Aloud Books

We will always try to include multiple copies of the suggested read-alouds titles related to the motivation activity in your book collection.

### *The Real Mother Goose OR Aserrin, Aserran* (3-5 year olds)

#### **Discussion Points:**

Read the book(s) in advance to determine which nursery rhymes you are comfortable using. You will not have time to read/sing/play each of the rhymes in the book. Show the children the picture that goes with the rhyme. Ask them to provide the title of the rhyme if they can.

If the rhyme is familiar, read, say or sing it together. If it is a new rhyme for the children, talk about why you like it and explain what is going on in the picture. Use an expressive voice while reading to engage the students. Read each rhyme several times. Have fun! (CD included for Spanish title)

### *If You're Happy and You Know It/Si Te Sientes Bien Contento...(1-2 year olds)*

#### **Discussion Points:**

Many children will already know this song. Sing a verse of the song before opening the book. Show the children the pictures as you read. Practice the hand movements that go with each part of the song. Feel free to use the posters in the kit as extra “reading” to ensure that the children get to experience the nursery rhymes as well as this wonderful song.

### *This Little Piggy/Este Cochinito* (infants)

#### **Discussion Points:**

Before and after reading the story and showing the pictures to the babies, be sure to sing and play this rhyme with them, using their fingers and toes. While reading, point out the child on the left—pointing to his or her toe. Name the activities of the child on the right. Talk about the facial expressions of the children and what they might be feeling.



#### **For younger children...**

It is necessary to be more interactive with your words. Using a “motherese” voice, talk about the children and how they are feeling and what they are doing.

Motherese is adult-to-child talk that helps babies learn language. It includes the use of short, simple phrases and changes in the pitch of your voice. Other important visual changes are your facial expressions and your body language.

#### **Developmental Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening:**

The child will :

- listen to and understand increasingly complex language,
- join in rhyming songs and games and
- show interest in books.

From: Teaching Strategies Gold: Objectives for Development and Learning