

Nursery Rhyme Extravaganza
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Nursery Rhymes are so much fun that my Kindergarten grade level has used them for our PTA program two years in a row. Nursery Rhymes enhance rhythm and rhyme, increase vocabulary, and introduce unforgettable characters.

Dr. Jean Feldman's "Nursery Rhyme" CD is the inspiration behind our PTA Program. Each class chooses a Nursery Rhyme and performs their rhyme with the rest of the classes acting as the chorus. There are 8 kindergarten classes so that's 8 rhymes to be acted out. We have backgrounds, costumes, and props. It's a BLAST!

I use Nursery Rhymes throughout the year, but during this time before our PTA program we do a little more intense study of the rhymes and a book for each child is an end product.

Day 1 Introduce the rhyme - Recite the chosen Nursery Rhyme and ask those who know it to join in as it is repeated. Have it typed, printed poster size, and displayed in front of the group. Invite the class to read the rhyme as you track the print. As other rhymes are introduced, talk about how it is the same as or different from other Nursery Rhymes they know. Repeat this rhyme and other rhymes they know to close the activity. (Hang the poster in the room for Read the Room activities.)

Day 2 Project – Choose a meaningful project that will help the children recall the Nursery Rhyme. Save the finished project to be included in a book for each child.

Day 3 Word Families – Print a copy of the rhyme for each child. Read the rhyme with the children tracking the print on their own paper. Name the rhyming words. On the other side of the paper, list words that belong to the same word family as one of the pairs of rhyming words. Save this sheet for the creative writing activity.

Creative Writing – As a writing activity at a different time, give the children a problem-solving question to answer about the rhyme. Their response is written on the printed Nursery Rhyme sheet. Put this sheet with the project sheet and when all rhymes are completed, make a book for each child.

The Nursery Rhymes that we have included this year follow:

Humpty Dumpty

Project – To show children how hard it is to pick up a broken raw egg, bring one in and drop it on a wax paper covered spot on a table. My kids got a good laugh watching me try to scoop up the egg. Children draw a brick wall at the bottom of their paper. They cut an egg shape and a hat from construction paper. Glue the egg on the wall and the hat on top of the egg. Draw on a face, arms and legs.

Word Family - __all

Creative Writing – “What made Humpty Dumpty fall off the wall?”

Itsy Bitsy Spider

Project – After going out to look at the school’s waterspouts, the children draw a building with a waterspout. Discuss the parts of a spider’s body and have the children cut a spider from construction paper to attach to the waterspout.

Word Family - ___out

Creative Writing – “Where would the Itsy Bitsy spider live if he could not go back to the waterspout?”

Jack and Jill

Project – Bring in pictures of wells and discuss the purposes of a well. Children draw a hill on their paper and cover it with bunched up pieces of green tissue paper. They draw the well and Jack and Jill on the hill.

Word Family - ___ill

Creative Writing – “What were Jack and Jill going to do with the water?”

The Three Little Kittens

Project – Talk about the difference in gloves and mittens. In what season do we need to wear mittens? The children trace over their own fingers and around their thumbs to make mittens. They use their markers to color and decorate their mittens. We discuss possible ways to decorate and that both mittens *usually* look the same. (My mittens would be red with pink pigs and smudges of chocolate on them.)

Word Family - ___itten

Creative Writing – “Where did The Three Little Kittens find their mittens?”

I'm a Little Teapot

Project – Bring in teapot and do a demonstration of water turning to steam. Discuss. Children make a teapot from construction paper and use various craft items to decorate it. They draw a stove on their paper and glue the pot sitting on it and draw steam coming out of it.

Word Family - ___out

Creative Writing – “How do you make hot tea?”

Hey Diddle Diddle

Project – This is a sequencing activity. One sheet has four large squares numbered 1-4 with one line of the rhyme written in sequence in each. The other sheet has a picture of each part of the rhyme. The children cut out the pictures and match them to the proper box to sequence the rhyme.

Word Family - ___oon

Creative Writing – “Why were the characters gathered together?”

Baa Baa Black Sheep

Project – Explain what wool is and how we get it. Children trace a sheep pattern on white construction paper and paint it black. After the sheep dries add black yarn curls.

Word Family - ___ool

Creative Writing – “What can we make out of the wool we get from the Black Sheep?”

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Project – Have a lesson on stars. Teach children how to draw 5 point stars. Give them time to practice and then set the timer to see how many they can draw in a minute.

Word Family - ___ar

Creative Writing – “What would you wish for if you were to make a wish on a star?”

When all rhymes are done, make a cover and combine all pages into a book. I present the book to my students after the PTA Program. There are many, many Nursery Rhyme idea books out there and some good web sites. Find the rhymes that your class would enjoy and have fun with them!

Dear Parents,

These are the Nursery Rhymes we will be singing at PTA on March 11. Please help your child learn the words.

Thanks,
Kindergarten Teachers

Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
Humpty dumpty had a great fall.
All the king's horses and all the king's men
Couldn't put Humpty together again.

Itsy Bitsy Spider

The Itsy Bitsy Spider went up the waterspout.
Down came the rain and washed the spider out.
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain.
And the Itsy Bitsy Spider went up the spout again.

Jack and Jill

Jack and Jill went up the hill
To fetch a pail of water.
Jack fell down and broke his crown
And Jill came tumbling after.

The Three Little Kittens

The Three Little Kittens they lost their mittens and they began to cry,
"Oh, Mother Dear, we sadly fear our mittens we have lost!"
"What! Lost your mittens, you naughty kittens!
Then you shall have no pie!"

I'm a Little Teapot

I'm a little teapot, short and stout.
Here is my handle, here is my spout.
When I get all steamed up then I shout.
Just tip me over and pour me out.

Hey Diddle Diddle

Hey diddle diddle, the cat and the fiddle.
The cow jumped over the moon.
The little dog laughed to see such a sport
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

Baa Baa Black Sheep

Baa baa black sheep have you any wool?
Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full.
One for the master, one for the dame
And one for the little boy
That lives down the lane.

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle twinkle little star.
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high.
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are.