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Rhyme Box for Toddlers

Babies and children learn through interaction and experience, a "Rhyme Box" is a tool you can use to promote and encourage this. By sharing songs and rhymes with your toddler you develop his listening, understanding and social skills.

Research shows that singing traditional lullabies and nursery rhymes to babies and infants before they learn to speak, is **"an essential precursor to later educational success and emotional wellbeing, song is a special type of speech. Lullabies, songs and rhymes of every culture carry the 'signature' melodies and inflections of a mother tongue, preparing a child's ear, voice and brain for language. Traditional songs aid a child's ability to think in words. Singing to and, later, with a child is the most effective way to transform their ability to communicate. "Children's response to live music is different from recorded music, Babies are particularly responsive when the music comes directly from the parent. Singing along with a parent is for the development of reciprocal communication."**

(Sally Goddard Blythe, a consultant in neuro-developmental education and director of the Institute for Neuro-Physiological Psychology)

Why Use a Rhyme Box?











- Because it uses objects or pictures related to the song to help your child's understanding
- Because it develops early decision making by enabling your child to choose between two of the objects in the box either by looking or verbalising
- Because it helps focus your child's attention.
- Because it allows repetition of key words and phrases.
- Because it encourages the development of strong attachment bonds between you and your child

A rhyme box could contain:

- A teddy bear - for "Round and round the garden
- A duck - for "Three or five little ducks"
- A boat - for "Row row row your boat"
- A horse - for "Horsey horsey don't you stop"
- A rabbit - for "Hop little bunnies"

And of course any other favourite they may have

Using The Rhyme Box



- Make sure you and your child are seated comfortably, without distractions
- Limit the objects in the box to four or five.
- Ensure you are face to face with your child and have his eye contact
- Choose two of the objects from the box and holding them in front of your child ask him does he want the ? or the ? giving him time to choose by either pointing, looking or verbalising.
- Let your child hold the chosen item as you sing the related song.

Children learn through repetition, by making the rhyme box part of your daily interaction you encourage engagement, understanding, decision making and word building, developing strong attachment bonds between you and your child in a fun and interactive way

Sharing rhymes with your child



Research shows that sharing nursery rhymes with young children is good for developing their attention, listening, copying , turn-taking, understanding words, and building vocabulary— all important skills for learning to talk;

Whats more….children who know Nursery Rhymes when they start school are the ones who do better with reading and writing later on.

Below are a few popular nursery rhymes we hope you will share with your child.

"Sharing songs and rhymes helps children to build a wider vocabulary and enables them to achieve more in their reading and writing when they start school"

Rosemary Clarke , Booktrust

The best way to develop a child's knowledge of rhymes and sounds...is through singing with an adult"

Joe Wilson Educational Psychologist



"Row Row Row Your Boat"

Row row row your boat
Gently down the stream
Merrily, merrily, merrily
Life is but a dream

Row row row your boat
Gently down the stream
And if you see a crocodile
Don't forget to scream ahhh!



"Hop Little Bunnies"

Can you see the bunnies sleeping
Till it's nearly noon
Come and let us
Gently wake them
with a merry tune
Oh how still, are they ill?
Wake up soon
Hop little bunnies
Hop, hop, hop
Stop little bunnies
Stop, stop, stop

"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!



"The Wheels On The Bus

The wheels on the bus go
Round and round
Round and round
Round and round
The wheels on the bus go
Round and round all day long

The wipers on the bus go
Swish swish swish etc

The doors on the bus
Open and close etc

The horn on the bus goes
Beep beep beep etc





"Three Little Ducks"

Three little ducks went swimming one day
Over the hills and far away
Mummy duck said quack,quack ,quack
But only two little ducks came back

Two little ducks went swimming one day
Over the hills and far away
Mummy duck said quack,quack ,quack
But only one little duck came back

One little ducks went swimming one day
Over the hills and far away
Mummy duck said quack,quack ,quack
And all the little ducks came swimming back

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