

## **NURSERY RHYME INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

Your child will complete one nursery rhyme and one number rhyme per week.

Please note that your child does not need to read the rhyme formally. The focus is on reciting the rhyme orally, discussing the rhyme and recognising rhyming words in the rhyme.

Please complete the following tasks/activities with your child:

- Sing the rhyme with your child. Play it on CD if possible. If you have access to the internet, you can find the rhymes in video format at <https://www.youtube.com/> Type the name of the rhyme into the search box at the top of the page
- Talk about the rhyme. Explain any unfamiliar words that your child may be unsure of
  - Listen and identify words that rhyme example: rat,cat,bat
- Tell your child that you are going to choose a word. Tell them the word. For example: sheep When your child hears the word 'sheep' in the rhyme, encourage them to clap their hands/touch their nose/nod their head. This task will help with their listening skills as they have to listen for a particular word
  - Ask your child questions about the rhyme (Who/what/when/why/where/how?)

Example: Why did Jack and Jill go up the hill?

How do you think Little Miss Muffet felt when the spider sat down beside her?

- Ask your child to give their own personal opinion about the rhyme. Example: did you like the rhyme? Why/why not? What was your favourite part of the rhyme?
- Encourage your child to make up actions for the rhymes
- Sing the rhyme for your child but leave out certain words and encourage your child to identify the missing word  
Example: Hey diddle diddle, the cat and the \_\_\_\_\_
- You can also make mistakes on purpose and see can your child identify the mistake that you made. Your child will find this very funny!  
Example: Mary had a little dinosaur its skin was green as grass  
Correction-→ Mary had a little lamb its fleece was white as snow

- Children will enjoy changing the words in the rhymes. Encourage them to make up extra verses for the rhyme or encourage them to change words and to invent their own rhymes

Example:

Humpty Dumpty sat on a car,  
Humpty Dumpty had a chocolate bar,  
All the king's dogs and all the king's cats  
Couldn't put humpty together again.

- Encourage your child to draw a visual representation of the rhyme

#### Extension activities for Senior Infants:

- Find tricky words in the rhymes
- Identify the initial and final sounds in words Example: what does 'little' begin with? answer=l  
what sound is at the end of 'dog' ? answer= 'g'
- When your child is familiar with the rhyme, you can encourage them to read the rhyme informally