



## ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONERS

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### Rhyme a Day Challenge: 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

We have chosen 5 popular nursery rhymes for this year's 'Rhyme A Day' challenge and will focus on each song in the following order:

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November:** The Wheels On The Bus

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November:** Five Little Speckled Frogs

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November:** Hickory Dickory Dock

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November:** Old MacDonald Had A Farm

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November:** Miss Polly Had A Dolly

## Activity Ideas

Over the following pages we have put together some suggested activity ideas for each of the 5 rhymes.

Please share your own activity ideas with us on social media or email Kim Cunningham at: [info@worldnurseryrhymeweek.com](mailto:info@worldnurseryrhymeweek.com) if you would like us to share your ideas for you.

Connect with us on social media:

**Website:** [www.worldnurseryrhymeweek.com](http://www.worldnurseryrhymeweek.com)

**Early Years Planning Group:** <http://bit.ly/WNRWPlanningGroup>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/WorldNurseryRhymeWeek/>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/worldrhymeweek>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/worldnurseryrhymeweek/>

**Pinterest:** <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/WNRWGlobal/>

**Social media hashtag:** #worldnurseryrhymeweek

**Linkedin contact:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kimcunninghamuk/>

**The Rhymingtons:** <https://www.facebook.com/TheRhymingtons/>

## Disclaimer

Please note that by using or following these activities you agree to take full responsibility for the safety of the children in your care. Some activities may need parental permission and adult supervision and others will not necessarily be appropriate for younger children.

We recommend that a risk assessment is carried out prior to implementing the activities and that all children are constantly supervised throughout.

## Acknowledgements

With grateful thanks to our Headline Sponsor **Moonbug** for their support and free video content: [www.moonbug.com](http://www.moonbug.com) and our Partner Abi Cotton at **Sing With Piccolo** for the song downloads and music activity idea sheets: <http://www.piccolomusic.co.uk>

# The Wheels On The Bus

## **Numeracy:**

Sing the nursery rhyme in a group. At the end of each verse stop the bus for some of the children to get off. How many children are left? How many seats are on the bus? How many spaces after each verse?

## **Literacy:**

Using a toy bus (or other vehicle), fix a crayon or pencil to the front using an elastic band or similar. Then move the vehicle over paper or card to make marks with the pencil or crayon. Older children can attempt to form the letters in their name.

## **Craft:**

Create a poster of basic traffic signs. Explain what each sign means.

## **Play (Indoor/Outdoor):**

Using large cardboard boxes (could be crates or similar), ask the children to act out driving a bus. Create a one-way system. Extend the activity by asking them to act out more unusual ways to travel (hot air balloon, riding an elephant, magic carpet).

## **Messy play:**

Wheel art. Using a sheet of paper as a road, add paint at one end of the paper and roll the wheels of a bus (or other vehicle) through the paint and across the paper. Alternatively, create a road using other materials (sand, flour, mud etc).

## **Discussion:**

Discuss journeys the children have been on. Where were they going and how did they travel there? Who did they go with? Older children can look at bus timetables and plan a route.

## **Further activities for older children:**

Draw a map for a bus route. Add buildings (landmarks the children are familiar with) and name roads the bus route will follow.

Talk about buying bus tickets. How much is your ticket? How much change will you get from your purchase? (use coins if possible). How much would it cost to travel by train instead to the next town/city? Which is the cheapest way to travel?

Write a job advert for a bus driver. What skills/experience are needed? How different would the job advert need to be for a train driver or a helicopter pilot?

# Five Little Speckled Frogs

## **Numeracy:**

Cut out 5 or 10 lily pads/frog shapes. Number them 1 to 5 (or 1-10) and then sort them into the correct order.

## **Literacy:**

Sing the rhyme together and identify the words that rhyme. Create word labels for each of the rhyming words and ask the children to match them (frog/log, pool/cool).

## **Craft:**

Create a poster showing the lifecycle of a frog using different materials for each of the stages.

## **Play (Indoor/Outdoor):**

Draw large lily pads in the shape of a hopscotch. Can the children hop like frogs?

## **Messy play:**

Water tray. Create a pond where children can act out the rhyme. Add grass or tissue paper to create a swampy pond effect. Large stones can be added to create a hopping platform for toy frogs.

## **Discussion:**

What other animals live in a pond? Which animals are small and which are large? What do they eat? Can any of the animals also be found in a river or the ocean?

## **Further activities for older children:**

Draw a frog face on a paper cup. Practice fine-motor skills and counting skills by using large plastic tweezers to pick up small plastic bugs and 'feed' them to the frog. Count the bugs.

Create card or paper lily pads and choose something to represent frogs e.g. plastic cubes (or make frogs). Roll a dice to get a number and practice counting while moving the frogs up and down the lily pads. Take turns.

Discuss 'metamorphosis'. Show images that explain the development lifecycle of a frog. (there is a lifecycle video in the [WNRW Planning Group](#) on Facebook). What other animals go through a stage of metamorphosis? (e.g. butterflies).

# Hickory Dickory Dock

## **Numeracy:**

Discuss time. How many seconds in a minute? Minutes in an hour, hours in a day etc.

## **Literacy:**

Discuss daytime words and night-time words. (sun/moon, breakfast/dinner, light/dark, school/home etc). Any words/activities that are the same in the morning and evening? (e.g. brushing your teeth).

## **Craft:**

Make paper plate clocks.

## **Play (Indoor/Outdoor):**

Create a rock clock. Pebbles/stones for the clock numbers, sticks for the clock hands and a toy mouse.

## **Messy play:**

Collect old clocks (charity shops/junk stores) and take them apart. Examine the different components and press them into playdough or wet sand to examine the shapes they make.

## **Discussion:**

Which jobs require people to use a watch or clock to keep track of time? How would they be able to do their job if they didn't have a way of tracking the time?

## **Further activities for older children:**

Make a clock diary - draw pictures of a clock (or take photos of a real clock) during different times of the day. What are you normally doing at that time? Draw a picture or write a sentence next to each clock to describe what you do.

Can you find a clock that uses Roman Numerals? What are the Roman Numerals up to 12? Can you order them? Can you write them yourself?

Mime day and night routines to see whether the children can guess what they are.

# Old MacDonald Had A Farm

## **Numeracy:**

Group farm animal figures into sets and count how many of each animal you have. Take one away, how many do you have now? Older children could add up total number of legs, ears, eyes etc.

## **Literacy:**

Organise the children into groups and assign them a farm animal which they each have to individually draw for a class book/display. Can they write out the name of the animal? Older children can write additional information including what food the animal eats, where it lives (sty, barn, pen etc) and the name of its young (cow/calf, sheep/lamb).

## **Craft:**

Create a picture of a Scarecrow to scare away the birds from Old MacDonald's crops using a range of different materials or make a life-size class scarecrow.

## **Play (Indoor/Outdoor):**

Section off an area and create a pretend farmyard. Use items with wheels to transport the farm animals around the farmyard. Create a route for wheeled toys to drive around as farm tractors. Make homes for the animals out of construction materials.

## **Messy play:**

Create a farm animal washing station with mud or paint, water and brushes. Take before and after photos of the animals.

## **Discussion:**

Discuss the many different jobs on a farm. Who takes care of the animals? What time will the farmer need to be awake in the morning? How do they manage in bad weather? What will the farmer need to do if an animal gets sick? With older children you can discuss the differences between arable and livestock farming. Which animal do we get wool from? Which animal do we get milk from?

## **Further activities for older children:**

Make up your own version of the nursery rhyme using different animals. You could even change the word 'farm' to a zoo, pet shop or similar. What sounds do the animals make? Can you also make up some actions?

Pick one of the animals from the nursery rhyme. Write a list of all the jobs the farmer would need to carry out to care for that animal.

Match up pictures of farm animals to the words. Older children could write labels themselves or choose from 3 different spellings e.g. which is the correct spelling? *Duk, duc or duck?*

# Miss Polly Had A Dolly

## **Numeracy:**

Match printed numbers to telephone numbers (local doctors' surgeries, hospitals). What other numbers do we need to call in an emergency?

## **Literacy:**

Sing the rhyme together and identify the words that rhyme. Create word labels for each of the rhyming words and ask the children to match them up (quick/sick, head/bed, bill/pill).

## **Craft:**

Make a 'get well' card for Miss Polly's dolly. Write a message inside.

## **Play (Indoor/Outdoor):**

Set up a doctor's surgery role play area. Create an appointment book and patient forms. Decorate the surgery with either printed pictures of the human body or drawings by the children. Make information books available about the human body. Provide a print-out of pretend doctor's surgery phone numbers for the children to dial on a toy phone.

## **Messy play:**

Body Hunt. Create a sensory bin using either sand, popcorn seeds, dried peas etc. Search for a free Early Years printable online of body parts and print two copies. One copy will serve as a body part mat, the other images can be cut up and hidden in the bin. Using fingers or tongs/tweezers, encourage the children to find a body part and match it to the body part mat.

## **Discussion:**

How do doctors help us when we feel poorly? Have any of the children been to the doctor? What other professions help us when we feel unwell or are in pain?

## **Further activities for older children:**

Can you spot any rhyming words in the nursery rhyme? Can you say/write some of your own?

Print or draw a large picture of a dolly or teddy. Label the different body parts and then label several plasters with the same words and match the words on the plasters to the words on the picture. Stick them on to make the doll/teddy better.

Write a list of instructions for Miss Polly explaining how she can look after her dolly.