Nursery rhymes: adult input plan

one week, or a rhyme a day · ages 1 to 5 · adult-led and child-initiated ideas for six learning areas

Big questions

- Which rhymes do our children already know from home?
- Can we hear the words that rhyme and clap the beat?
- Can we tell what happens first, next and last?

Key words

rhyme · beat · clap · loud · quiet · fast · slow · first · last · up · down · again

Area	Adult-led (small group, 10 to 15 minutes)	Child-initiated (set it up, then step back)
Talk and listening	Rhyme basket: children pull out a prop (a toy spider, a star, a plastic egg) and guess the rhyme before you sing it.	Puppet theatre with the stick props and a box stage, so children can sing and act rhymes for each other.
Early reading and writing	Finish the rhyme: pause before the last word and let the group fill the gap. Then try the picture sheet with a small group.	Rhyme posters at child height in the book corner, with the choice cards in a basket to “read” and sing alone.
Maths	Count up with One, two, buckle my shoe using real shoes, sticks and a toy hen; older children try the count-and-write sheet.	A Hickory dickory clock on the maths table: the mouse runs up, a child rings a bell, another moves the short hand.
Exploring the world	Water spout test: pour water down a tube in the water tray and see where a toy spider ends up, then sing Incy Wincy.	A small-world hill and wall made from blocks and fabric, with toy figures, a pail and an egg.
Creative play and art	Body percussion: clap, tap and stamp the beat of Row, row, row your boat, then try it fast and slow.	Instruments, ribbons and a music player with recordings of the rhymes your families sing at home.
Moving and fine motor	Finger plays at the carpet: Incy Wincy, Twinkle, Twinkle and Hickory dickory dock with the action cards.	Rolling, cutting and decorating play-dough hot cross buns, with a tray, a basket and toy coins for a bun stall.

Families: please tell us the rhymes and songs your child knows at home, in any language, so we can sing them here too.