

discovery time

Rhyme Time

Parents and caregivers, extend Discovery Time into your home. Share these fingerplays and activities with young children. **The letter for this theme is R.**

Hickory, Dickory, Dock

Hickory, dickory, dock!
The mouse ran up the clock!
The clock struck one,
The mouse ran down.
Hickory, dickory, dock!

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 who lives
down the lane.

Doctor Foster Went to Gloucester

Doctor Foster went to Gloucester,
In a shower of rain.
He stepped in a puddle,
Right up to his middle,
And never went there again!

I Had a Little Red Balloon

I had a little red balloon,
(Pretend to hold a balloon with two hands)
And I blew, and I blew, and I blew!
(Pretend to blow balloon)
It grew, and it grew, and it grew!
(Spread hands further and further apart)
I tossed it up into the air,
(Mime tossing balloon)
And I didn't let it drop.
I bounced it down to the ground,
(Mime bouncing)
And it went POP!
(Clap hands)

Five Little Monkeys

Five little monkeys, sitting in a tree.
(Swing five fingers back and forth)
Teasing Mr. Alligator,
"You can't catch me, you can't catch me!"
(Shake index finger)
Along comes Mr. Alligator, quiet as can be,
(Finger to lips)
And...SNAP! That monkey right out of the tree!
(Slap hands together like alligator jaws)
(Count down through all monkeys)
Away swims Mr. Alligator, full as can be!
(Rub belly)

Diddle, Diddle, Dumpling

Diddle, diddle, dumpling,
My son John.
Went to bed with his stockings on!
One shoe off, and one shoe on.
Diddle, diddle dumpling,
My son John.



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Help your child get ready to read with these simple activities.

- **Talking:** Even though your baby will not actually understand number words, rhymes with numbers help prepare your child for the idea of counting. Later he will connect the concept to the words.
- **Singing:** The concept of loud and soft plays an important role in music and throughout life. Your child needs to know when a loud voice is okay and when a soft voice is required. Music is a fun way to learn the difference!
- **Reading:** Some nursery rhymes help develop your child's narrative skills. These skills will later help her understand what she reads, such as remembering the sequence of events in a story.
- **Writing:** Being able to coordinate small muscles in hands and fingers enables your child to hold objects, cut with scissors, tie her shoelaces, fasten buttons, and ultimately helps prepare her to write.
- **Playing:** By playing games that involve role-playing, taking turns, and showing appreciation to children who take turns, you are helping your child learn how to regulate himself. This will come in handy when he starts going to school.

family literacy tip

Language and Literacy

Singing with your children is one way to help them hear the smaller sounds in words, especially if there is a different note for each syllable. In "London Bridge is Falling Down," the word *falling* has two syllables and two different notes. Learning to hear the parts of words helps children develop phonological awareness, which will later help them with reading.

Diamant-Cohen, Betsy, and Saroj Nadkarni Ghoting. *The Early Literacy Kit: A Handbook and Tip Cards*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2010. Print.



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