

Do you know that sharing nursery rhymes with your child can help every building block of communication? From the earliest interactions in babies to getting ready for school, the benefits for communication, language and literacy are endless!

- Ticky songs like ‘Round and Round the Garden’ and ‘This Little Piggy’ are great for bonding and building early skills like joint attention and anticipation.
- Holding hands for songs like ‘Row Row your Boat’ and ‘Ring a Ring a Roses’ are great for taking turns. Pause during the high points to let your child join in. Wait at the end of the song to see if your child will ask for more by pulling your hands.
- Songs with actions or signs help children link meaning to the words, building understanding of language. Try ‘Wind the Bobbin Up’ or ‘Head Shoulders, Knees and Toes’.
- Songs with fun sounds are great for early language development and symbolic play. Try ‘Old McDonald’ and ‘Wheels on the Bus’
- Repetitive songs are a great way to help children learn new words and phrases - lots of nursery rhymes are repetitive.
- Teaching your child about rhyme increases their awareness of how words are made up of sounds (phonological awareness) which is important for clear speech and getting ready for reading and writing. Clap along to rhymes to build awareness of syllables. When sharing rhymes with older children, you can talk about the words that rhyme and that they have the same sound at the end and a different sound at the start of the word like ‘Jill’ / ‘hill’, ‘down’ / ‘crown’.

Hope you have fun together!

