

COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE ENRICHMENT: NURSERY RHYME SPINE

Nursery rhymes form a key part of our communication and language curriculum. A carefully sequenced nursery rhyme spine is used to develop children's listening, attention, vocabulary and speaking skills.

Rhymes are revisited regularly to support memory, phonological awareness and confidence in communication. They are explicitly linked to curriculum themes and provision, enabling children to apply language in meaningful contexts. This is particularly important for our cohort, where many children enter with communication and language skills below age-related expectations.

Term	Focus	Nursery Rhymes	Curriculum Links
Autumn 1	Settling, body awareness, early language	Twinkle Twinkle Little Star If You're Happy and You Know It Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes This Little Piggy Pat-a-Cake Wind the Bobbin Up Incy Wincy Spider	Body & senses PSED routines Turn-taking and participation
Autumn 2	Environment, night & day, early sequencing	Five Little Ducks Hickory Dickory Dock Row Row Row Your Boat Baa Baa Black Sheep Five Little Speckled Frogs Twinkle Twinkle (revisit) Humpty Dumpty	Counting (Maths) Farm role play Nocturnal animals
Spring 1	Animals, habitats, vocabulary development	Old MacDonald Had a Farm The Wheels on the Bus Little Bo Peep Mary Had a Little Lamb Five Little Penguins The Animal Fair Two Little Dickie Birds	Animal habitats Descriptive language Role play links
Spring 2	Growth, change, sequencing	Jack and Jill Mulberry Bush Five Little Seeds Ring a Ring o' Roses One Finger One Thumb Sleeping Bunnies Mary Mary Quite Contrary	Life cycles Planting and growth Sequencing events
Summer 1	Past & present, storytelling	Miss Polly Had a Dolly Polly Put the Kettle On London Bridge Oranges and Lemons Goldilocks (song) Simple Simon This Old Man	Storytelling Role play Understanding past and present
Summer 2	Wider world, oceans, imagination	A Sailor Went to Sea Row Row Row Your Boat (revisit) Baby Shark Five Little Fish Down at the Station	Oceans & habitats Journeys and maps Outdoor learning links

Term	Focus	Nursery Rhymes	Curriculum Links
		The Big Ship Sails We're Going on a Bear Hunt	

A small number of core rhymes are revisited daily to support repetition, recall and confidence:

- Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
- Five Little Ducks
- Incy Wincy Spider
- Wheels on the Bus

Nursery rhymes are used daily within routines, group times and provision to ensure children can apply and embed language in a range of contexts.