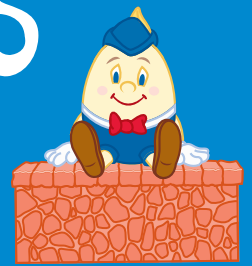


NURSERY RHYMES

THEME BOX



Designed to meet these objectives:

- Students will listen attentively and respond to instructions.
- Students will use oral language to describe objects and experiences.
- Students will act out and retell familiar nursery rhymes.
- Students will sequence events.
- Students will sort and match objects.
- Students will count concrete objects.
- Students will understand some ordinal numbers.
- Students will skip count by twos.
- Students will use concrete objects to solve problems.
- Students will learn about the water cycle and water conservation.
- Students will develop gross and fine motor skills.

Your new Nursery Rhymes Theme Box has everything you need for comprehensive, hands-on lessons that span the curriculum! We've included a wide variety of props and manipulatives that help children explore a delightful world of rhythm and rhyme. Inside this guide, you'll find ideas and instructions for dozens of involving, themed activities covering 10 cross-curricular learning areas—from math to dramatic play. We've even included a list of terrific children's books to build up your classroom library. The Nursery Rhymes Theme Box is a perfect way to capture children's attention and boost essential skills!

What's Included

- Nursery rhymes flip book
- Nursery rhymes jumbo cube
- 6 soft nursery rhyme pieces with storage bag
- 5 "Hey Diddle Diddle" stamps
- Ink pad
- 4 rebus nursery rhyme cards
- 16 rebus picture pieces (plus hook & loop fasteners)
- Storage tub





Language

- Nursery rhymes are often humorous, with silly situations, funny characters, and nonsense words. Help students analyze nursery rhymes. For example, recite “There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe.” Could a family really live in a shoe? Watch for other examples as you read and recite favorite nursery rhymes.
- Tell children that nursery rhymes, like folk tales, are passed orally from generation to generation. Prompt children to ask their parents to tell them some nursery rhymes they remember hearing from their own parents.
- Discuss how different cultures have different traditional stories and rhymes. Find unfamiliar nursery rhymes or stories from various cultures and read them aloud to students.
- Prepare the rebus nursery rhyme cards by applying the loop sides of the hook & loop fastener dots to the blank spaces on the fronts of the cards. Apply the hook sides to the backs of the picture pieces. Then, have students recite the poems and choose which picture piece to put in each blank space.
- Use the stamps and ink pad to make your own rebus-style version of “Hey Diddle Diddle.” Print the rhyme, leaving out the key words. Invite children to stamp pictures to complete the nursery rhyme.
- Model how to turn pages in the flip book to show a nursery rhyme. Have children recite the rhyme with you. Then, encourage them to try the activity on their own. Prompt children to find the words that rhyme in each poem.



Art

- Use the stamps and ink pad to stamp out the story of “Hey Diddle Diddle.” Color the background with colored pencils or crayons.
- Form egg shapes from air-dry clay. Make cracks in the eggs. When the eggs are dry, use them to retell the story of “Humpty Dumpty.”
- Use liquid glue to draw spiders and webs on black paper. Use the spiders to retell “Little Miss Muffet.”
- Help children cut out sheep shapes from construction paper. Glue cotton balls to the shapes to make sheep for Little Bo Peep or a lamb for Mary.
- Make a collage garden for “Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary.” Use pipe stems for the stems, tissue paper for the flower petals, and green construction paper for leaves.
- Decorate empty paper towel rolls to make candlesticks for nimble Jack. Add a twist of orange tissue paper for the flame.
- Use markers to decorate small pumpkins. Add windows, doors, and other features to make houses for Peter Pumpkin Eater’s wife.



Sand & Water

- Recite “Pat-a-Cake” with children. Then, encourage them to form cakes from damp sand by patting it with their hands.
- Float margarine tubs in your water table while reciting “Rub-a-Dub-Dub.” Can you place three “men” (marbles or other small objects) in a tub without sinking it?



Science

- Recite “Star Light, Star Bright.” Explain that the first “star” we see in the evening sky is often a planet (typically Venus or Jupiter) instead of a star! Planets and stars both look similar to our eyes, but they are actually quite different. Stars are made of burning gases that give off their own light, like the Sun. The planets are bodies like the Earth. They look bright because they are lit up by the Sun’s light.
- Mary’s lamb had fleece that was as white as snow. What is “fleece”? Explain that this is what we call a sheep’s woolly coat. Sheep’s wool is used to make yarn, from which we make sweaters, coats, and blankets.
- Did Jack Sprat and his wife eat healthfully? How about little Tommy Tucker? Discuss the foods we need to stay healthy: a variety of fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy, and protein sources like fish, nuts, and meat.
- Jack and Jill went to a well to get water. How do we get water now? Where does it come from? Discuss why it is important not to waste water. What are some things we can do to conserve water every day?
- Mary had a lamb for a pet. What other animals do people keep as pets? What pets do the children in the class have? Discuss the things we must do to take care of pets and keep them healthy. If possible, get a class pet and care for it together.
- Could a cow really jump over the moon? Discuss the fact that the moon is actually very large. It only looks small because it is far away, like big airplanes that look tiny as they fly high above us. Explain that the moon is much, much bigger than an airplane flying overhead—and much, much farther away!



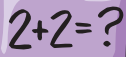
Music

- Sing “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,” “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” “Three Blind Mice,” and other favorite nursery rhyme songs.
- Act out “I’m a Little Teapot” while singing the song. Hold one arm up to form a teapot’s spout and put the other hand on your hip, elbow pointing outwards, to form the handle. Don’t forget to bend over sideways when it’s time to pour out the tea!
- Practice playing horns like Little Boy Blue.
- Invite a child to choose one of the soft pieces. Then, have everyone sing or say that nursery rhyme together.



Active Play

- Gather a small or large group and take turns tossing the nursery rhymes cube. When it lands, have everyone recite the nursery rhyme shown on top of the cube.
- Have children form teams for a relay race. Have the players take turns walking to a goal and back to their teams while balancing an egg on a spoon. Don’t let “Humpty Dumpty” fall!
- Encourage children to play “Pat-a-Cake” with partners. Clap both of your hands, then clap right hands with your partner, and then left hands. Can children repeat the pattern while reciting the rhyme?
- Skip in a circle while you sing “Ring Around the Rosies.” Sit on the floor when you say, “All fall down!”
- Help the Three Little Kittens find their mittens! Hide cutout paper mittens throughout the classroom and have a scavenger hunt to find them.
- Be “nimble” like Jack and jump over “candlesticks” made from empty paper towel tubes. (See Art activities.)

 $2+2=?$

Math

- Practice counting as you recite “One, Two, Buckle My Shoe.”
- Read or tell the story of the Three Little Kittens. If kittens wear mittens on all four paws, how many mittens did the three kittens lose? Use cutout mittens to add sets of four to figure out the answer.
- Stamp the “Hey Diddle Diddle” stamps onto separate index cards. Have children put the cards in order to match the nursery rhyme, and then number the cards. What happened first, second, third, and so on?
- Cut out ten pairs of mittens from different wallpaper samples or different colors of construction paper. Put all of the mittens in a pile and prompt students to sort them into pairs. Then, use the paired mittens to practice counting by twos.
- How many are “four and twenty blackbirds”? Count beans or other counters into a pie pan to find out!
- Does a little teapot that’s “short and stout” hold more tea than a tall, thin one? Bring in containers of various shapes and fill each with water. Have children guess which ones hold the most liquid. Then, see how many cups of tea you can fill from each container.



Dramatic Play

- Set out props for acting out nursery rhymes in your dramatic play area. For example: a pail, a spoon, mittens, cake pans, and so on.
- Set up a market. Visit the market like “Little Piggies” would.
- Provide baby dolls and encourage children to tell them their favorite nursery rhymes. Don’t forget to sing “Rock-a-Bye Baby” while you rock them to sleep!
- Prompt children to pretend to be Mary with her little lamb, Little Bo Peep looking for her sheep, Little Boy Blue sleeping under the haystack, or Jack and Jill fetching water from the well. Can other children guess which nursery rhyme is being acted out?



Cooking

- Cut up a pumpkin for “Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater.” Roast the seeds for a snack, and make pie or bread from the pumpkin flesh.
- Prepare “curds and whey” (cottage cheese) snacks for Little Miss Muffet.
- Serve roast beef sandwiches for “This Little Piggy Went to Market.”
- Have children pat biscuit dough into small, round “cakes” for “Pat-a-Cake.” Use a fork to “prick” their initials into their cakes. Sprinkle the tops with cinnamon and sugar and bake the cakes according to package directions.



Library

- *Five Little Piggies* by David Martin
- *Hey Diddle Diddle* by Tomie dePaola
- *Little Robin Redbreast* by Shari Halpern
- *Lucy Cousins’ Book of Nursery Rhymes* by Lucy Cousins
- *Mary Had a Little Lamb* by Sarah Josepha Hale
- *Mother Goose Magic* by Kay Chora
- *Sing a Song of Sixpence* by Pam Adams
- *There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Glove* by Bernard Lodge
- *Three Little Kittens* by Paul Galdone
- *Tomie dePaola’s Mother Goose Favorites* by Tomie dePaola