



Short Activity
Ages 0–3
10 minutes

Nature Rhymes

Description

Rhymes, finger plays, and songs with a nature theme to include during a story time program.

Competencies

- Sensory motor skills
- Development of fine motor skills
- Oral communication
- Social interaction
- Rhythm and music appreciation
- Following directions
- Eye-hand coordination

Materials

- Optional: printout of nature rhymes

Preparation

- Learn the lyrics and the associated actions for each of the rhymes, finger plays, and songs
- Optional: print out the nature rhymes for caregivers, which can be used during and after the program

Implementation

1. Use the list of nature rhymes to select various nature-themed finger plays
2. Consider combining them with some of the book suggestions for a story time program with babies or toddlers

Book Suggestions

City Critters by Antonia Banyard

Forest Baby by Laurie Elmquist

I Give You the World by Stacey McCleary

I Love You Like... by Lori Joy Smith

Life by Cynthia Rylant

Picture the Sky by Barbara Reid

Plant the Tiny Seed by Christie Matheson

Splish, Splash, Foxes Dash! by Geraldo Valério

Summer Color! by Diana Murray

Thank You, Earth by April Pulley Sayre

Wild One by Jane Whittingham

List of Nature Rhymes

Itsy Bitsy Spider

The itsy bitsy spider climbed up the waterspout.

(Action: Alternately touch the thumb of one hand to the index finger of the other)

Down came the rain

(Action: Hold both hands up and wiggle the fingers as the hands are lowered)

and washed the spider out.

(Action: Sweep the hands from side to side)

Out came the sun

(Action: Raise both hands and sweep to the sides to form a semicircle for the sun)

and dried up all the rain,

(Action: Wiggle fingers upwards)

and the itsy bitsy spider climbed up the spout again.

(Action: Alternately touch the thumb of one hand to the index finger of the other)

Itsy Bitsy Caterpillar

Sing to the same tune as "Itsy Bitsy Spider."

The itsy bitsy caterpillar crawled up the garden wall.

Down came the rain,

and he hoped he wouldn't fall.

Out came the sun

and dried up all the rain.

Then the itsy bitsy caterpillar went on his way again.

Dig a Little Hole

Dig a little hole,

(Action: Digging motion)

Plant a little seed.

(Action: Drop seed into hole)

Pour a little water,

(Action: Pouring motion)

Pull a little weed.

(Action: Pull up weed and throw away)

Chase a little bug,

(Action: Chasing motion)

Heigh-ho there he goes!

Give a little sunshine,

(Action: Cup hands and lift to sun)

Grow a little rose.

(Action: Smell flower, eyes closed, smiling)

Round and Round the Garden

Round and round the garden

Like a teddy bear.

One step, two step

tickle under there.

Recommended actions: Caregivers can start by tracing slow circles in child's upturned palm. With each "step," caregivers move their index and middle fingers up the arm, past the elbow towards the shoulder. Finally, after a short pause, tickle under the arm or under the chin.

Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush

Here we go round the mulberry bush,

The mulberry bush,

The mulberry bush.

Here we go round the mulberry bush

So early in the morning.

This is the way we wash our face,

Wash our face,

Wash our face.

This is the way we wash our face

So early in the morning.

This is the way we comb our hair,

Comb our hair,

Comb our hair.

This is the way we comb our hair

So early in the morning.

This is the way we brush our teeth,

Brush our teeth,

Brush our teeth.

This is the way we brush our teeth

So early in the morning.

This is the way we put on our clothes,

Put on our clothes,

Put on our clothes.

This is the way we put on our clothes

So early in the morning.

Here we go round the mulberry bush,
The mulberry bush,
The mulberry bush.
Here we go round the mulberry bush
So early in the morning.

Oats, Peas, Beans and Barley Grow

Oats, peas, beans and barley grow,
Oats, peas, beans and barley grow.
Can you or I or anyone know,
How oats, peas, beans and barley grow?

It's Raining, It's Pouring

It's raining; it's pouring.
The old man is snoring.
He went to bed and bumped his head.
And couldn't get up in the morning.

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Row, row, row your boat,
Gently down the stream.
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Life is but a dream.

And try this alternative:

Row, row, row your boat,
Gently down the stream.
If you see a crocodile,
Don't forget to scream.

Beehive

Here is a beehive. (hands cupped together)

Where are all the bees? (hands palms up as if questioning)

Hiding inside where nobody sees. (hands cupped together again)

Look! Here they come! Out of the hive (hands open slowly)

One, two, three, four, five. (display fingers one at a time)

Five Green and Speckled Frogs

Five green and speckled frogs, sat on a speckled log

Eating some most delicious bugs, yum, yum!

One jumped into the pool, where it was nice and cool

Now there are four green, speckled frogs

Repeat, faster each time, for:

Four green and speckled frogs...

Three green and speckled frogs...

Two green and speckled frogs...

One green and speckled frog, sat on a speckled log

Eating some most delicious bugs, yum, yum!

It jumped into the pool, where it was nice and cool

Now there are no green speckled frogs... ALL GONE!