



The Rhyme Challenge



A Quick Introduction to the Additional Rhyme Challenge Rhymes

Learning rhymes plays an important role in helping children develop skills and confidence with language. Rhymes help children to recognise common sounds and language patterns, which will help them when they learn to read and write. Learning rhymes also helps children develop speaking and listening skills.

Of course, rhymes are also a lot of fun! Most rhymes lend themselves to simple actions. Some have stories or link to numeracy skills and many introduce new vocabulary.

Rhyme cards for these rhymes are available online and can be added to the cards in your Rhyme Challenge pack: <http://poridrwystori.booktrust.org.uk/rhyme-challenge>

Little Arabella Caterpillar

This rhyme has fun action and is a bit of a tongue twister. The consonants make this rhyme a great way for children to practise more challenging sounds.

Actions:

1st line: tickle the palm of your hand

2nd line: walk your fingers up one arm

3rd line: walk your fingers down the other arm

4th line: hide your hand behind your back

The Grand Old Duke of York

This is a traditional rhyme with plenty of opportunities for stamping feet and actions! The big movements help develop gross motor skills and the rhyme also uses useful terms such as 'up', 'down' and 'halfway'.

Five Currant Buns

This is a traditional counting song. You can link it to role-play about shopping and start talking about money. You could also link this to cooking and make your own currant buns – or pretend to with sand or water!

When Goldilocks went to the House of the Bears

This is a rhyme with a story. It's a longer rhyme so may be a bit more challenging, but there's plenty of repetition to help children learn. You can add actions for the bowls, chairs, beds and bears to make it more fun. There's also some basic counting and language about size.

Bugs

This is a really funny little rhyme and will appeal to children who might think they're too grown up for rhymes! You can use it to encourage children to make their own rhymes and link it to work on mini beasts or a nature walk.

For children who are Welsh learners, rhymes can be a great way to build their confidence in the language and introduce new vocabulary.

You can find audio recordings of the Welsh rhymes at <http://poridrwystori.booktrust.org.uk/audio-stories-welsh>.

Cylch o Gylch Rhosynnau

This is the Welsh version of the famous rhyme 'Ring-a-ring o' Roses'. There's the chance for some fun actions on 'A-tis-w! A-tis-w!' and 'i lawr â ni'.

Y Tywydd

This is a simple rhyme about the weather with plenty of repetition. Remember that children receive their Pori Drwy Stori 'Weather Watch' calendar in the autumn term, too.

Bwrw Glaw yn Sobor Iawn

This is a more challenging rhyme about the weather, and the title is similar to the English expression 'It's raining cats and dogs'.

Pen, Ysgwyddau

This is the Welsh version of 'Heads and Shoulders, Knees and Toes' which appears on the English rhyme card. Some children may enjoy learning both versions of the rhyme. There are plenty of fun ways to play with this rhyme, including doing the actions and speeding up each time, and keeping quiet for 'pen', then 'pen, ysgwyddau' etc. each time.

Mr Hapus Ydw i

This rhyme can be sung to the tune of 'If You're Happy and You Know It' and is a good way to introduce words for talking about feelings. There are also plenty of opportunities to pull faces and to be very quiet and very noisy!