



Nursery Rhymes & Puppets

Introduction Video

Nursery Rhymes & Movement Station Summary

Read "The Wheels on the Bus" book and act out the songs.

Nursery Rhymes and Movement

Cognitive Benefits

- Repetition of rhymes and stories is good for the brain, teaching how language works and building memory capabilities (Healy, 2020).
- Nursery rhymes help develop inferencing skills, both with encountering new words and in reading comprehension (Healy, 2020).
- Because these verses are made up of patterns, they are easy first memorization pieces (Healy, 2020).
- Nursery rhymes expand children's imagination (Healy, 2020).
- They promote creative dramatization when kids act the scenarios out (Healy, 2020).

Social and Emotional

- Nursery rhymes develop humor (Healy, 2020).
- Because of the connection between movement, rhythm, and words, singing these songs can be a great group activity (Healy, 2020).
- Children can learn social skills from many of the rhymes (Healy, 2020).
- Nursery rhymes are familiar and can thus provide comfort and support to youngsters in uncomfortable situations (Healy, 2020).

At Home Strategies

- Read the book and make the motions for the song
- Talk about the pictures in the book
- Sing and Act out the other songs from the Song Sheet

References

Healy, M. L. (2020, January 14). The Benefits of Nursery Rhymes on Preschool Development. Retrieved May 29, 2020, from <https://pambarnhill.com/nursery-rhyme-benefits/>



Nursery Rhymes & Puppets

Puppets

Sheep Puppets Station Summary

Assist your child as he creates a sheep puppet or read and sing nursery rhymes. This activity is dependent upon the age of your child.

Cognitive Benefits

- Puppets offer children an engaging way to interact and explore their knowledge and understanding of the world (Sturgeonl, 2018).
- Children learn to converse and formulate their thoughts and words to best convey their message (Sturgeonl, 2018).

Social and Emotional

- The most obvious benefit of puppet-play is encouraging the child's imagination and creativity (OpenSchoolbag, 2016).
- Talking through a puppet allows children to explore feelings freely and reenact situations in a way that they are familiar with (Sturgeonl, 2018).
- The process also allows children to develop empathy for others. When children are encouraged to take the role of others, they learn to empathize. This is very important in helping them experience compassion and respect for the feelings of other people (Sturgeonl, 2018).

Motor Development

- When using fingers to move the puppets, your child improves his fine motor skills (small actions such as picking up and holding objects). This way he is able to learn which finger he needs to wriggle in order to make the puppet's arm or leg move. What a way to coordinate brain-hand coordination (OpenSchoolbag, 2016).

At Home Strategies

- Help baby create the puppet using cotton balls, popsicle stick, and the sheep pattern
- Let baby play with the cotton balls
- Count the cotton balls
- Sing the Sheep rhyme songs

References

OpenSchoolbag. (2016, March 3). 6 Big Benefits of Puppet-Play for Children - No Strings Attached! Retrieved May 29, 2020, from <https://www.openschoolbag.com.sg/blog/benefits-of-puppet-play/>

Sturgeonl. (2018, October 15). How Hand Puppets Help Children Learn Valuable Skills. Retrieved May 29, 2020, from <https://wehavekids.com/parenting/Educational-Benefits-of-Hand-Puppets-and-Puppet-Theatres>



Nursery Rhymes & Puppets

5 Little Ducks

Five Little Ducks Station Summary

Read "Five Little Ducks"

Cognitive Benefits

- Teaching children to count involves more than helping them learn the numbers one to ten. It involves helping children understand the meaning of numbers (Penn State Extension, 2017).
- Understanding the meaning of numbers takes experience with counting lots of things, and you can help by giving your child this experience regularly (Penn State Extension, 2017).
- Children start learning numeracy skills from the time they're born. This learning happens from watching and experiencing numeracy in action, especially in everyday play and activities (Raising Children Network, 2019).

Social and Emotional

- Playing with your toddler helps your child develop communication, imagination and other skills that help him understand math concepts (Raising Children Network, 2019).

Motor Development

- Fine motor skills, also related to hand-eye coordination, are critical to healthy childhood development and academic success (Tkayne, 2020).
- We use our fine motor skills to guide our hands and fingers in reaching and grasping (Tkayne, 2020).

At Home Strategies

- Read the book and talk about the pictures
- Count the ducks in the book
- Count the 5 little rubber ducks
- Match the rubber ducks with the ducks in the book

References

Penn State Extension. (2017). Help Children Understand the Meaning of Counting (Better Kid Care). Retrieved May 29, 2020, from <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/betterkidcare/parents-families/families-count/help-children-understand-the-meaning-of-counting>

Raising Children Network. (2019, February 6). Developing early numeracy skills. Retrieved May 29, 2020, from <https://raisingchildren.net.au/babies/play-learning/learning-ideas/early-numeracy>

Tkayne. (2020). Fine Tuning Fine Motor Skills with Manipulatives. Retrieved May 29, 2020, from <https://blog.brainbalancecenters.com/2017/05/fine-tuning-fine-motor-skills-manipulatives>



Nursery Rhymes & Puppets

Water and Boat

Water & Boat Station Summary

Play with the boats and ducks in the water.

Cognitive Benefits

- Water play allows children to explore a substance and make discoveries about it (Kids Club, 2019).
- Water play and singing encourages them to use their imagination, develop creative thinking which plays an important role in problem-solving (Kids Club, 2019).

Social and Emotional

- Water play releases energy, it can be both invigorating or relaxing and calming for young children (Kids Club, 2019).
- It increases their ability to concentrate on one activity when presented as a tranquil and repetitive activity (scooping, pouring and running their hands through the water) (Kids Club, 2019).
- It also encourages role play and crucial social skills like cooperation and sharing (Kids Club, 2019).

Motor Development

- Children will increase their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination through actions like pouring, squirting, scrubbing, stirring and squeezing (Kids Club, 2019).
- It's an amazing sensory experience introducing them to textures (slippy, slimy...) and temperatures (Kids Club, 2019).
- It will also help master the pincer grip which will enable them to hold a pencil correctly at school (Kids Club, 2019).

At Home Strategies

- Assist babies as they play with boats and ducks in the water tubs
- Sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"
- At home, don't hesitate to take buckets, cups, sifters, empty bottles ... in a shaded area out in the garden or on the balcony and participate with your children to their pretend play, they are learning as well as enjoying your participation! Never leave children unattended during Water Play (Kids Club, 2019).

References

Kids Club. (2019, November 12). 5 interesting benefits of Water Play in Early Childhood Development. Retrieved June 1, 2020, from <https://www.kidsclubchildcare.com.au/5-benefits-of-water-play-in-early-childhood-development/>



Nursery Rhymes & Puppets

Finger Puppets

Finger Puppets Station Summary

Read the Old MacDonald book.

Cognitive Benefits

- Children can practice their oral speaking skills by telling a story to a puppet or explaining words or expressions (World of Little Dude, 2020).
- Children's memory is developed and improved especially when retelling a story. They need to be able to keep the timeline or the sequence of events in the correct order and keep track of various characters (Whittier, 2020).

Social and Emotional

- Puppets can be an engaging and useful way to help students develop emotionally and grow their language and communication skills (World of Little Dude, 2020).
- Puppets allow children to engage in imaginative play that differs from dolls and other figures (World of Little Dude, 2020).
- While using puppets, children are able to project their own emotions onto the puppet (World of Little Dude, 2020).

Motor Development

- Manipulating hand puppets and finger puppets develop fine motor skills. Larger puppets, like marionettes, require more gross motor skills, but even using stick, sock or paper bag puppets requires a certain amount of stamina in the working arm (Whittier, 2020).

At Home Strategies

- Talk about the pictures in the book as you read the story. Let your child turn the pages.
- Practice counting the items found inside the book
- Talk about the animals and the sounds they make
- Read the other songs that are found at the station
- Use finger puppets to engage with the songs

References

Whittier, K. (2020, March 17). Why Puppet Play is Important. Retrieved June 1, 2020, from <https://playandgrow.com/puppet-play-important/>

World of Little Dude. (2020, April 3). Puppets in the classroom. Retrieved June 1, 2020, from <https://www.worldoflittledude.com/blog/puppets-in-the-classroom/>



Nursery Rhymes & Puppets

Itsy Bitsy Spider

Itsy Bitsy Spider Station Summary

Read Itsy Bitsy Spider to your child.

Cognitive Benefits

- Many studies have shown that children build vocabulary, use more complex sentences, and improve comprehension when frequently exposed to stories (Isbell, 2002).
- Reading aloud and telling stories are both effective ways to share literature with young children and to support language and literacy learning (Isbell, 2002).
- Each retelling increases the children's familiarity with the story and offers more opportunities for their participation during the experience (Isbell, 2002).

Social and Emotional

- Storytelling promotes expressive language development—in oral and written forms—and presents new vocabulary and complex language in a powerful form that inspires children to emulate the model they have experienced (Isbell, 2002).
- Storytelling encourages children to use their imagination, create visual images, and actively participate, providing a way to bring children into the act of story making (Isbell, 2002).
- Young children's first attempts at storytelling are often the retelling of stories they have heard; stories of great personal interest are the foundation for their earliest trials. In the child's first efforts, the beginning, words, characters, and voices tend to be very similar to the original telling they heard (Isbell, 2002).

At Home Strategies

- Talk about the pictures in the book as you read the story. Let your child turn the pages.
- Create a spider prop to act out the story and show the movement of the spider
- Create props/puppets for other nursery rhymes and stories

References

Isbell, R. T. (2002, March). Telling and Retelling Stories Learning Language and Literacy. Retrieved June 1, 2020, from https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/pubs/isbell_article_march_2002.pdf



Nursery Rhymes & Puppets

Sock Puppets

Sock Puppets Station Summary

Read the books to your child.

Cognitive Benefits

- Puppets can tell stories on their own (with a little help from you) or make a book come to life. Puppets are also a great tool for teaching rhyme in early literacy development (Durand, 2017).
- Children love to have 'conversations' with a puppet. Each verbal interaction with their puppet will encourage language development (Mcilroy, 2020).

Social and Emotional

- Early learners can take on different characters and often shy children interact more easily as their puppet persona (Durand, 2017).
- A supportive puppet can model social interactions, like ways to ask to play with a toy. Get children to act out their feelings or voice their fears or frustrations to a puppet (Durand, 2017).
- The purpose of the puppet is to create interaction, fun dialogue and even an element of surprise into your play and learn activities (Mcilroy, 2020).
- A puppet can be the voice used to correct table manners or other social skills. The puppet becomes the instructor and children often enjoy listening to the puppet teaching them to be sociable. It is not mom or dad's voice setting the rules again, but a funny puppet character (Mcilroy, 2020).

Motor Development

- The fine movement required to wear a puppet helps with dexterity and using fingers to manipulate the puppet improves fine motor coordination (Mcilroy, 2020).

At Home Strategies

- Sing Hickory Dickory Dock, or any other nursery rhyme
- Create a sock puppet and act out the song

References

Durand, S. (2017, September 26). 5 Reasons Early Learners Love Puppets. Retrieved June 1, 2020, from <https://www.geteduca.com/blog/why-early-learners-love-puppet-play/>

Mcilroy, T. (2020, May 4). The Amazing Benefits of Playing with Puppets in Early Childhood. Retrieved June 1, 2020, from <https://empoweredparents.co/playing-with-puppets/>