

Nursery Rhymes

up, mash it with the fork, add mayonnaise and mix. Spread the egg salad on crackers or bread. Eat and enjoy!

Phyllis Esch, Export, PA

Rhymes for a Reason

3+

Science skills

Here the teacher and children enliven the nursery rhymes by exploring the principles of balance, movement and measurement.

Materials

Book of Mother Goose Rhymes
Basket
Hard-boiled eggs
Spider puppet

Shawl
One candle in a candleholder
Brick or cardboard block

What to do

1. Jump-start those old nursery rhymes and explore the science of it all. Make it interesting and fun by starting the role-playing yourself.
2. Dress as old Mother Goose. Make use of a shawl, perhaps a hat, granny glasses, a stuffed goose. In your basket, have the props to bring your rhymes to life.
3. For Jack Be Nimble, jump over the candlestick—really! Then measure how tall the candle is. Then jump next to, behind or in front of the candlestick.

Jack be nimble

Jack be quick

Jack jump over the candlestick

4. You can have Humpty Dumpty acted out by a leader or by all the children. Balance your hard-boiled egg on a real or cardboard brick wall. When Humpty falls, what happens? Can he be put back together?
5. For Little Miss Muffet, choose a Miss Muffet and use a puppet spider. Use the poem as a start for a study of spiders.

Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet

Eating her curds and whey

Along came a spider

And sat down beside her,

And frightened Miss Muffet away.

More to do

Dramatic play: Put the props in the dramatic play center so the children can role play Mother Goose rhymes.

Related books

Be Nice to Spiders by Margaret Bloy Graham

Bently and Egg by William Joyce

Miss Spider's Tea Party by David Kirk

The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle

Tracie O'Hara, Charlotte, NC

4+

Strength Test

Science skills

By building the little pigs' houses, children use gross and fine motor skills and make observations and predictions.

Materials

The Three Little Pigs (many versions available)

Straw

Sticks

Bricks

Electric fan

What to do

1. Read the children the story.
2. Separate the children into three groups. Give one group the straw, one the sticks and the last group the bricks.
3. Tell the children they are going to build a wall out of the things they have. Ask them which wall will be the strongest?
4. After the children finish the walls, put a fan next to each wall (supervise this step closely). See which one is the strongest and why.

Eric Painter, Georgetown, MA