



Rhythm, Rhymes & songs.....



The wonderful thing about using songs and rhymes with young children is that no preparation is required. Singing and rhymes can happen anywhere at anytime. It is important to remember children have a need to explore repetition- this means you are likely to sing the same song over and over again!

If you know any actions, include them as your singing or if not create some of your own, these actions greatly aid general gross and fine motor physical skills.

What can your child learn from this type of play?

Physical Benefits: Finger Rhymes & action songs help babies & young children become aware of their bodies. They also help them to master small movements with their hands, for example, clapping or grasping fingers. Action songs such as Humpty Dumpty also help Gross movement skills as well as spatial awareness.

Cognitive Benefits: Songs & rhymes help babies & children to notice patterns & sounds. They help children to concentrate & develop memory skills. Where Physical movements are used, they will also become more aware of their bodies.

Language Benefits: Songs and rhymes help children to notice the sounds and speech patterns in the language that they are being exposed to. They also learn about intonation and expression. Children who are regularly exposed to songs and rhymes begin to join in and so learn about interaction and communication.

Mathematical Benefits: Number songs such as '5 current buns' will allow children to explore and gain further understanding of number as well as early subtraction and addition. Why not make 5 current buns as a visual.

Social and Emotional Benefits: Songs and rhymes help children to feel that they belong. They give children feelings of security and emotional reassurance. This is why they are also particularly effective at calming babies, toddlers and young children. Socially, they can also interact, engage and turn take with others- their fore heightening their self-confidence and self-esteem .

Laura
Says:



"It is important for children to build up a repertoire of rhymes and songs. Not only will this type of play provide opportunities for babies and young children to develop language, physical and mathematical skills are also learnt. Although not always required rhythm books & other resources such as musical instruments can be used to enhance this type of play; it is likely to heighten involvement, encourage participation as well provide provocation for exploring beat and rhythm in further contexts."



How to enhance and extend play and learning experiences:

In order to enhance rhythm, rhyme and songs further why not make some simple instruments out of old materials found around the house. You may also enjoy creating song props or puppets such as 5 ducks for the song "5 little ducks went swimming one day!"



Let's make music!