

# Sharing the magic of rhymes!



## 10 ideas for exploring rhythm and rhyme with young children

- 1 Encourage children to join in with nursery rhymes and songs with their own rhythms, singing, clapping or with musical instruments, from banging a drum to rattling some bells.
- 2 Encourage children to copy your beats on a drum or shakes on a tambourine to practise basic rhythms.
- 3 Count or sing as you go downstairs or carry out repetitive tasks e.g. as you build a tower or pour sand and water.
- 4 Read lots of rhyming books and when children are familiar with them, leave a space for them to fill in the rhyming words. Talk about what other words might fit into the space that also rhyme.
- 5 Once they are familiar with a rhyme, play around with the words e.g. 'twinkle twinkle little...bat, how I wonder where you're at!'
- 6 Sing rhymes and songs that use the children's own names to encourage turn taking and engagement. Naming rhymes are great for children first getting to know one another.
- 7 Make a collection of objects that rhyme - talk about how they are similar or different. Think about what other things could join this rhyming gang.
- 8 Build in rhymes to everyday activities e.g. 'this is the way we wash our hands...put on our coats...eat our snack...'
- 9 Develop displays and stories linked to familiar nursery rhymes such as 'hickory dickory dock...' or create your own 'Mary, Mary, quite contrary' garden area outdoors.
- 10 Make up your own songs and rhymes for routines in your setting or other important things the children need to remember. The repetition and rhythm of rhymes can really help to make information stick.