

Nursery rhyme activities for children:  
through dance, music, language games, art, craft  
and play.



Strengthening the skills of early years educators to create learning opportunities whilst watching, listening and following a child's play through a collection of Nursery rhyme activities. The Action learning workshops will be held at an early learning development centre over three Saturdays with an Exhibition afternoon for visitors, children and parents.

The educational focus will be upon:

- Working collaboratively
- Using Nursery rhymes to stimulate children's thinking, imagining, creativity and language through play.
- A lesson planning structure
- The Design/ Make / Appraise process.
- Using a variety of recycled Art/ craft materials to design Nursery rhyme characters and props
- Marion Blank's levels of Questioning
- Focus upon positional language. e.g. in, on, under, beside etc.,
- Using an online tool [The wepublish app] to display children's learning.
- Emergent curriculum
- Using an Action learning framework [think/ plan/ act and reflect] to identify how Nursery rhymes can be incorporated into every day learning and play.

What's in the Rhyme box, bag, case,  
collection??



drawing  
TO LEARN

## An Action Learning project for early years educators.

Watching, listening and  
following a child's lead  
through Nursery rhyme play.

## Belonging Being Becoming

### Outcome 2:

#### **CHILDREN ARE CONNECTED WITH AND CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR WORLD**

Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment

- Participate with others to solve problems and contribute to group outcomes
- Demonstrate an increasing knowledge of, and respect for natural and constructed environment

### Outcome 4:

#### **CHILDREN ARE CONFIDENT AND INVOLVED LEARNERS**

Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity

- Use play to investigate, imagine and explore ideas
- Follow and extend their own interests with enthusiasm, energy and concentration
- Initiate and contribute to play experiences emerging from their own ideas
- Participate in a variety of rich and meaningful inquiry-based experiences
- Persevere and experience the satisfaction of achievement
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### Outcome 5:

**THINK, PLAN, ACT AND REFLECT UPON USING A NURSERY RHYME STIMULUS BOX, BAG OR CASE FILLED WITH IDEAS.... ..TO DEEPEN CHILDREN'S CONNECTION TO TRADITIONAL NURSERY RHYMES.**

A **nursery rhyme** is a traditional poem or song for young children Usage only dates from the late 18th /early 19th century. The oldest nursery rhymes were lullabies that were sung to children to help the get to sleep.

Results showed that introducing children to nursery rhymes in early childhood can have a beneficial influence on later development of literacy-related abilities.

Everyday life presents different opportunities for playing rhyming games with Nursery rhymes. Repeating, singing, or making up rhymes can become part of many ordinary routines

### Nursery rhymes help little people to:

- Develop and extend vocabulary.
- Rhyme – understanding rhyme in our spoken language helps children learn to read.
- Rhythm- helps children to remember words and develop auditory memory skills.
- Phonemic awareness – hearing and understanding that words are made up of individual sounds and other word patterns.
- Fine motor skills and coordination – Encourages actions and movement.
- These activities are also great for teaching social skills – taking turns.



### The work:

3 half-day sessions plus an Exhibition afternoon.

Each session will have the same basic structure and will cover:

- The Activity lesson plan
- Language: rhythm, rhyme, questioning, positional language.
- Music/ dance/ drama
- Play
- Creating using recycled materials such as boxes, card, felt, lids, etc., from Remida

### Session one:

Thinking: What's in the Rhyme box?

Creating a Rhyme box / bag/ case using recycled materials

Choosing 7/8 nursery rhymes for the rhyme collection inside

Writing the narrative structure of each one on to postcards

Then:

Making, making, making props to support the narrative of each of the 7/8 rhymes, using recycled bits and pieces:

Creating a collection.

The lesson plan

Modeling the play together using the Rhyme box

### Session two:

Completing the making of the rhyme collection:

What's in the rhyme box?

How will I use this with little people?

Lesson planning for rhyme activities:

- Following the play
- Rhymes, singing and rhythm: Orff and Kodaly
- Positional language.... What's in the rhyme?
- Questioning

Planning: Who What When Where and How?





**Session three:**

Action:  
Trying the rhyme activities with the children

Collecting images /photos and comments.

How did the ideas work?

- Following the play
- Rhymes, singing and rhythm: Orff and Kodaly
- Positional language... What's in the rhyme?
- Questioning

What worked really well?

What didn't?

What might you try differently next time?

Practice with colleagues

Creating a rhyme story on the wepublishing app on line.

**Session four:**

**The Exhibition:**

Reflection

Parents and visitors welcome

Sharing the work:

**What was in the Rhyme box???**

See the Rhyme boxes made... with the Nursery rhyme props inside.

Share the wepublish app story and the photos, sounds of the children singing, dancing and playing nursery rhymes activities.

**Hear the Educator stories:**

Each to provide examples of what the children created using the ideas from the Nursery rhyme box .

