

Let's Roll Nursery Rhymes supports learning two important skills. Firstly, singing nursery rhymes is a great way to help young children hear, learn and practise the patterns and sounds of language as they experience the repetition and rhyme involved. Secondly, developing fine motor skills helps children gain the movements they will need for all sorts of daily activities, as well as mark making and handwriting.

- Start by rolling the dough designs away from the body to create a vertical/tall dough design. This is an easier movement. Turn the dough round as needed and complete the scene with stamps.
- Roll across the body to create a horizontal design. This is a more advanced skill. Crossing the midline of the body is a key developmental skill in which both sides of the brain work together to produce a coordinated movement. This is important for later handwriting skills as the children develop a preference for a dominant hand.
- Use different substrates such as play clay, kinetic sand or cloud dough. This will require children to try out different rolling skills to adapt to the consistency of the material.
- Encourage the children to press lightly or press firmly. What do they notice? Varying the pressure will reveal fewer or more details in the designs.
- Model vocabulary as the children play: *roll, push, stamp, away, towards, across, roll gently, press harder.*
- Use prepositional language to describe where they have stamped or to suggest where they could stamp: *above, below, beside, next to, underneath, on top of, inside.*
- Children will enjoy tracing their fingers over the designs in the dough. Encourage them to describe what they feel.



Activity Ideas

- Match the rhymes to pictures or objects: mouse, spider, star, frog, egg, toy bus.
- Roll and sing – create a feely bag with objects in: spider, brick, wheel/bus, etc. One child takes an object out and then rolls that rhyme while the others sing.
- Create invitations to play by leaving the rollers, dough and nursery rhyme books easily accessible.





The following activities will help to extend the learning – and the fun – even further for each rhyme.

Humpty Dumpty

Challenge the children to try to build a wall that is both high and safe for Humpty Dumpty to sit on. The wall could be small scale by making play dough bricks or large scale, and be made indoors or outside. Offer a range of construction materials including different blocks, bricks and card packaging. Testing the walls out with real eggs may add eggstra excitement!

Incy Wincy Spider

Look closely at some spider's webs and then weave webs using wool on a frame, or by wrapping wool around a frame of sticks formed into a rimless wheel shape. Watch videos showing how clever spiders are at climbing.

Create a drainpipe number line for Incy to climb up and be washed down.

Hickory Dickory Dock

Make a collection of clocks and watches. Ask the children to find different ways to sort them: by shape, ticking sounds, size, etc. See how many different ways they can find to sort them.

Encourage the children to tap out and hold the rhythm of a clock ticking without getting faster or slower.

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Learn about stars and constellations and encourage the children to try some sky gazing either outdoors or inside through the window. Create a night sky dough canvas using play dough, clay or wet sand. Use



the Twinkle, Twinkle roller to make the city skyline. Stamp the sky area to create constellations. Don't forget to give the stars special names!

The Wheels on the Bus

Use a 10-frame tray placed horizontally to create a bus for the passengers to sit in. As you sing the rhyme ask the children to add play people for each verse, letting them decide where they will sit. Count how many passengers are on the bus. Don't forget the babies!

Five Little Speckled Frogs

Encourage the children to roll a dough log long enough for 3/5/10 frogs to sit on. What is the longest log they can roll?



Sing the rhyme and create a log for the Five Speckled Frogs. When each frog jumps into the pool, stamp the flat end over the frog on the log and

stamp the frog now in the pool. Ask questions such as, *How many frogs are now on the log? How many are in the pool?*

Use our Hollow Log and frogs stamped out of play dough as counters for the children to play independently.