



Nursery rhymes

and why they're good for
children



Rock a bye baby

Rock a bye baby on the tree top,
When the wind blows the cradle will
rock,
When the bough breaks the cradle
will fall,
Down will come baby, cradle and all.

Types of nursery rhymes



Dr. Sean Murphy

Type	Example
Lullabies	Rock a bye baby
Clapping	Pat-a-cake, Pat-a-cake, Baker's Man / Bake me a cake as fast as you can / Roll it, pat it, and mark it with a B / Put it in the oven for Baby and me.
Fingers and toes	Tommy Thumb, Tommy Thumb / Where are you? / Here I am, here I am / How do you do?
Counting	There were ten in the bed / And the little one said "Roll over, roll over" / So they all rolled over and one fell out / There were nine in the bed...
Riddles	Flour of England, fruit of Spain, / Met together in a shower of rain; / Put in a bag tied round with a string, / If you'll tell me this riddle, I'll give you a ring.
Fables	<i>The Tortoise and the Hare</i> (Aesop) Once there was a very speedy hare (x2) / He would brag from near and far / That he was faster than a car / Oh yes, one time there was a very speedy hare
Modern	See you later, alligator, / In a while, crocodile,

Early development (adapted from Mullen, 2017)

Domains	Sub-domains
Physical Health and Well-Being	motor skills, independence, life skills
Language and Cognitive Development	reading skills, numeracy skills, memory skills
Communication and General Knowledge	Communicating skills, symbolic use of language, storytelling skills, knowledge about life and the world
Social Competence	curiosity, new experiences, acceptable behaviour, self-control, respect, cooperation
Emotional Maturity	thinking before acting, balance between fear and impulsiveness, feelings, empathy

Here is the Beehive



Here is the beehive,
where are the bees?

Hidden away where nobody sees.
Watch and you'll see them come
out of the hive,

One, two, three, four, five!

Bzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz!

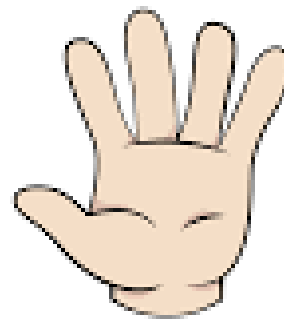


What are children learning?

- Literacy: rhyme - hive-five, bees-sees
- Speech: articulation - phonemes "b" "h" "w" "f"
- Vocabulary: "hive" - replace "come" with "buzz" or "swarm"
- Fine motor skills: act bees emerging from hive
- Critical thinking: "Where are those bees hiding? How do you know?"
- Numeracy: counting
- Narrative: situation – problem - solution
- Imagination and creative play: hands are hives, fingers are bees
- Social skills: teaching rhyme to friends

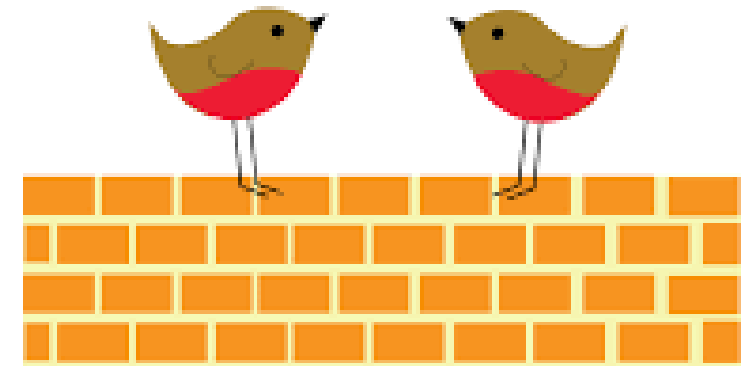
Johnny Whoops

Johnny, Johnny, Johnny, Johnny,
Whoops! Johnny
Whoops! Johnny
Johnny, Johnny, Johnny.



TWO LITTLE DICKIE BIRDS

**Two little dickie birds,
Sitting on a wall;
One named Peter,
One named Paul.
Fly away Peter!
Fly away Paul!
Come Back Peter!
Come Back Paul!**



Physical
health and
well-being

Communication and general knowledge

There was an old lady who swallowed a fly.

I don't know why she swallowed a fly.

Perhaps she'll die.

I know an old lady who swallowed a spider.

It wiggled and jiggled and tickled inside her.

She swallowed the spider to catch the fly.

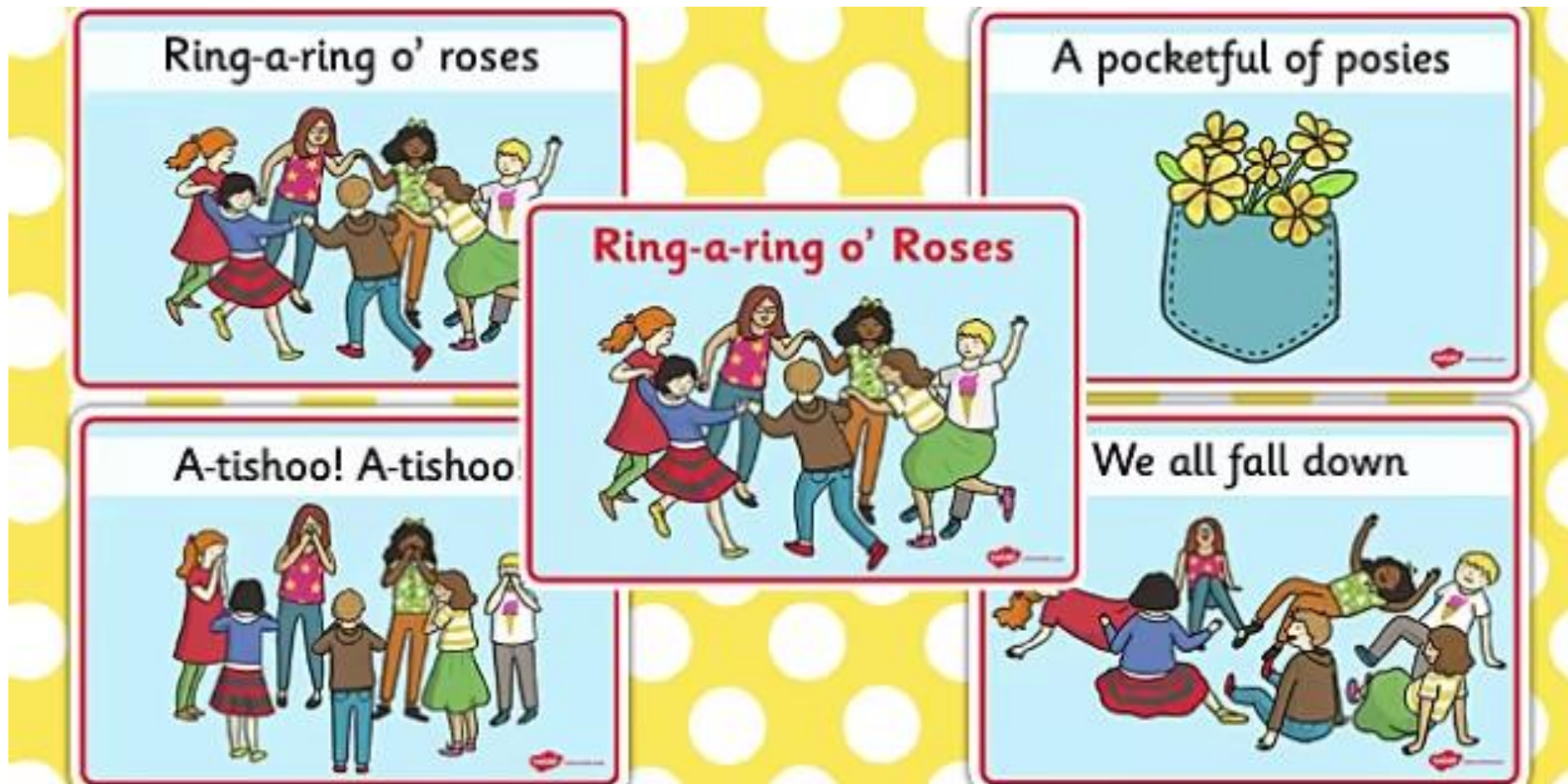
I don't know why she swallowed a fly.

Perhaps she'll die.


[cat, dog, cow, horse, etc.]



Social competence



Emotional maturity

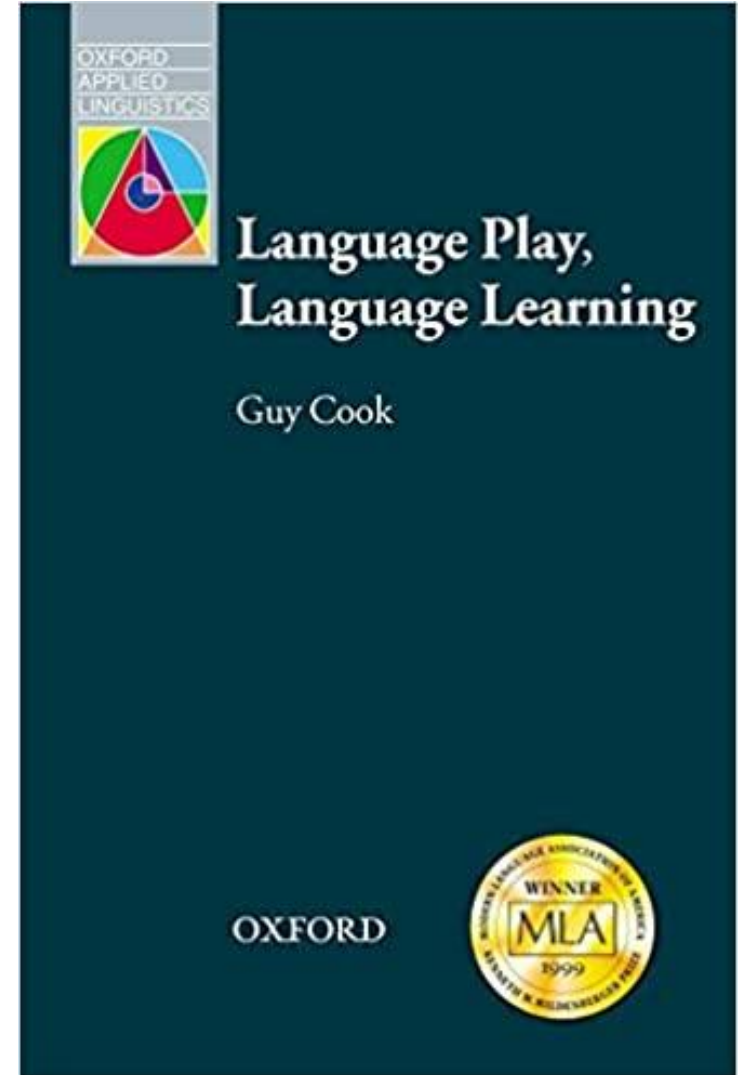


A wise old owl sat in an oak
The more he saw the less he spoke
The less he spoke the more he heard.
Why can't we all be like that wise old bird?

Conclusions

Nursery rhymes develop:

- motor skills, hand-eye coordination
 - language and cognition
 - narrative skills and world knowledge
 - cooperative skills
 - emotions and empathy
-
- Language play exists in all cultures
 - Nursery rhymes have existed for generations **FOR A GOOD REASON**



Sources of information used

(How to cite sources: <https://crai.ub.edu/ca/que-ofereix-el-crai/citacions-bibliografiques>)

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What do these people have in common?



What these people have
in common is the lullaby
Golden Slumbers

*Thomas Dekker wrote
the poem in 1599.*

*Paul McCartney turned
the poem into a song in
1969.*

*Dua Lipa released a
cover version of the song
in 2017*

