



Family Newsletter

THIS MONTH'S THEME

Nursery Rhymes

Take a leap into literacy as we climb inside the most beloved nursery rhymes. Meet Little Boy Blue, Old King Cole and other characters, as they jump from the pages and into your hearts. Build problem-solving skills while trying to put Humpty together again. Learn about the Crooked Man and draw a crooked house. Practice counting, sorting and rhythm as you delve into the rhymes that have stood the test of time.

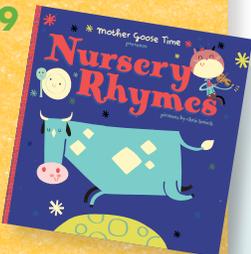
All month your child will explore long-loved nursery rhymes as he pretends to be the characters, makes art, and explores a world of fantasy and truth.



Extend your child's learning at home!

Theme-based Music CD
\$9.99

Exclusive Storybook
\$7.99



Find other theme-related toys and resources on our website.



Using Teachable Moments

As your child grows and develops, a spectrum of feelings emerge. Young children react emotionally, but it doesn't last for long. For instance, your child may cry when he doesn't get his way and a minute later, he may be laughing hysterically. Many teachable moments arise as children reach school age: they begin to recognize their own emotions, become aware of the emotions of others, and can think logically enough to begin to understand what to do about them.

You can use each expression of intense emotion as a teachable moment. Try these easy steps for guiding children through their emotions:

- **Be aware of your child's emotion.** Don't assume that you know what your child is feeling, but offer your interpretation without mixing in your own feelings. For instance, if your child is not getting along with a friend, use prompts such as, "What I heard you say was..." while discussing a situation.
- **Empathize with your child.** Telling your child that his feelings are valid does not necessarily signify approval or agreement. Listen to your child's feelings and acknowledge what you have heard. Empathize.
- **Help your child label his emotions.** Once a child has shared with you, offer words that might more accurately describe what he is feeling or expressing. Offer a short story of a time you felt that same way.

Sharing feelings and emotional trials is not always an easy thing to do, but the reward is substantial.



THIS MONTH'S FEATURED CONCEPTS

Letters I, R & J

Shape heart (corazón)

Numbers 6 & 16 (seis y dieciseis)

Color red (rojo)

Spanish words

cow (vaca)

spoon (cuchara)

shoe (zapato)

spider (araña)

egg (huevo)

clock (reloj)

honest (honesto)

Topics your child will explore this month

1 This Little Piggy

2 Sing a Song of Sixpence

3 1, 2, Buckle My Shoe

4 Hickory Dickory Dock

5 Baa, Baa, Black Sheep

16 Little Boy Blue

17 Little Bo Peep

18 Little Miss Muffet

19 Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

20 Mary Had a Little Lamb

Number Rhymes

Character Rhymes

6 Humpty Dumpty

7 There Was a Crooked Man

8 Itsy, Bitsy Spider

9 Hey Diddle Diddle

10 Old King Cole

Nursery Rhymes

"Little" Rhymes

Food Rhymes

11 Pat-a-Cake

12 Old Mother Hubbard

13 Little Jack Horner

14 There Was an Old Woman

15 Hot Cross Buns



RECOMMENDED READS

Cuddle Up WITH A GOOD BOOK

Fairy Tales, Nursery Rhymes & Nonsense Verse
by Alice Mills

A Sunday Stroll
by Paul Borgese

A Valentine for Ms. Vanilla
by Fred Ehrlich

Falling for Rapunzel
by Leah Wilcox

If You'll Be My Valentine
by Cynthia Rylant

Queen of Hearts
by Mary Engelbreit

Nursery Rhymes
by Roger Priddy



Family Activity

Thank You

(Sing to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.")

Appreciate the items you have at home that are made from wool and the items that keep us warm. Find other items around the home for which to be thankful. For example, thank a tree for wooden products. Sing about these things together.

Thank you, thank you, little sheep,
(Pretend to pet a small sheep.)

I love the way you share your fleece.
(Hug self as if using the sign for "love.")

Your wool makes my sweater and hat,
(Run hand on clothing.)

There is nothing warmer than that.
(Children place hands on head.)

Thank you, thank you, little sheep,
(Pretend to pet a small sheep.)

I love the way you share your fleece.
(Hug self as if using the sign for "love.")

Family Faves

Think about favorite books from your childhood and make a list. Take a family trip to the library to look for a few of the family's favorites. Together, choose a new book that could become a new family favorite. Ask other family members (grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) for the titles of their favorite books, too.

