

# Invite Kindergarteners into the Imaginary World of Mother Goose

**On the very first day of kindergarten, Becky Leber invites her children into the magical world of Mother Goose. While the kindergartners are out for recess, she sprinkles the room with small white feathers.** The children come back and discover the feathers. Then Becky Leber enters into the drama with the children,

“Oh I wonder what this is?”

As the children ponder who would have left feathers, one child usually says, “Maybe it was Mother Goose.”

Becky reflects on the children’s ideas... “Oh, ganders do have feathers,” and then she discovers a bag with a picture of Mother Goose on it. “Oh look! Mother Goose and her gander must have been here.” Inside the bag is an envelope for each child with his or her name on it and inside the envelopes are...a letter from Mother Goose and another soft white feather. The letter reads:

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Welcome to Lewelling Elementary.

I’m so glad you’re here to start kindergarten with me. I can’t wait to share all my rhymes with you. Here is a special feather. Take it home and put it in a special place. It will remind you of all my wonderful rhymes.

Your Friend,  
Mother Goose

Thus begins an imaginary journey that will actively engage the children in developing language and literacy skills within the full range of educational arts experiences. Children will eagerly begin to memorize, recite, perform and read Mother Goose rhymes, many of which have survived since the time of Shakespeare. With great anticipation the children come to school the next day wondering what Mother Goose has left for them this time. **Every few days there is a new Mother Goose prop in the bag for the children to make inferences about, a new rhyme to learn, and a new Mother Goose Read and Sing Little Book to practice with and take home.** The props (often Christmas ornaments) include items such as a shoe with a buckle for *1,2 Buckle My Shoe*, a mini-violin for *Hey, Diddle, Diddle*, and a lamb, star, candlestick, mouse, and spider. These gifts from Mother Goose and a copy of the accompanying rhyme are all attached to the bulletin board as a reminder of the children’s growing collection of memorized rhymes. Some years the children develop

such a deep affection for Mother Goose through this kindergarten fantasy that they simply don't want to end the acquaintance. **Mother Goose bids farewell through one last letter written on a chart with feathers attached:**

Dear Kindergartners,

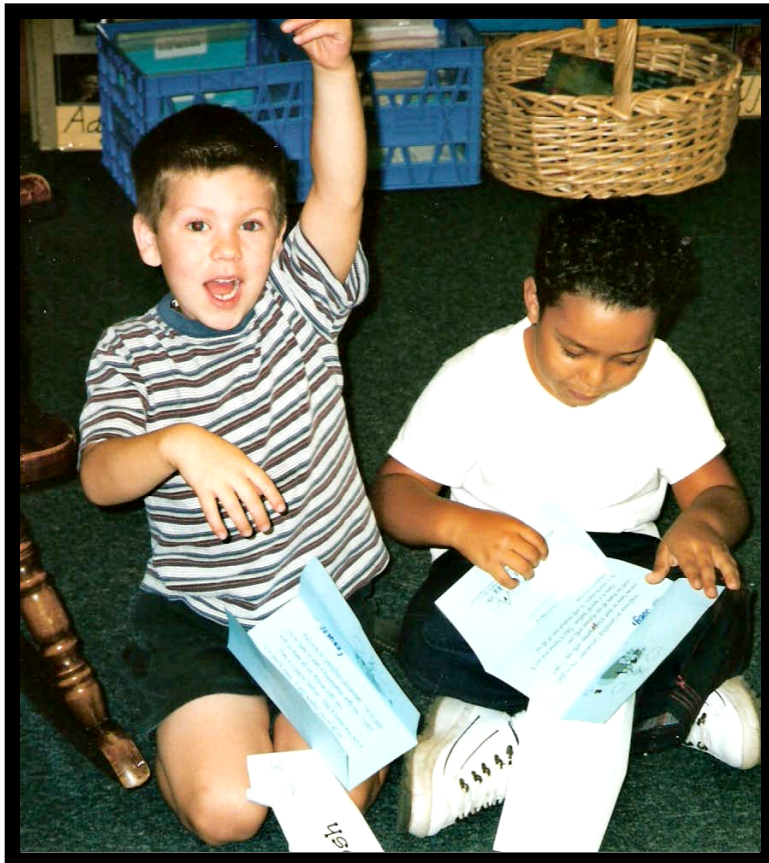
I have loved visiting your class and sharing my rhymes. But now the weather is cold, the wind is blowing, the rain is falling. It is time for me and my goose to fly south for the winter. I am leaving a chart of my rhymes. How many do you know?

Goodbye for now!

Your friend,

Mother Goose

This is how one wise teacher creates a community of kindergartners who love to read, write, and perform language from the first days of school. Essential reading skills are made memorable through meaningful multisensory strategies that take advantage of how the brain learns best. All children are challenged and supported while building on success.



**Each child  
receives a letter  
and a feather  
from  
Mother Goose  
on the first day  
of school.**