

Memorize, Recite, and Read Mother Goose Rhymes

Dear Parents,

Research consistently shows that children who have memorized Mother Goose rhymes become better readers. Enclosed are some of the most well-known English Mother Goose Rhymes, and perhaps your child already knows many of them.

We ask you to chant or sing these rhymes with your child often: during the day, in the car, or as a part of your bedtime routine. Recite them with soft and loud voices, happy and sad voices, with strong rhythm and expression. As you hold your child's hand in yours, point to the words while reading the rhyme page together. As children memorize rhymes, they role-play themselves as successful readers. We call this initial reading behavior "**magical memory reading,**" which supports the reading process!

Did you know? Mother Goose rhymes are an important part of our literary heritage. Many have survived since the time of Shakespeare. Children continue to love these rhymes because of their delightful rhythm, nonsense, and imagery!

Memorizing nursery rhymes is a strategy that will **give your child a storehouse of language** to call upon when he is asked to fluently read, write, and speak the English language. We encourage memorization at home and at school for "...Pretty things, well said, it's nice to have them in your head." (Robert Frost)

Thank you for being partners with us in literacy development. Your nightly commitment to reciting rhymes together is a vital part of your child's success in school. **Enjoy creating wonderful family memories as you make friends with Mother Goose.**

Your partner in literacy learning,

