

Birth to three

Examples to support learning

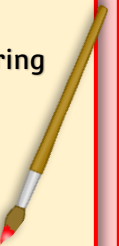
You can make song and rhyme times engaging for young children by using a wide range of props or simple instruments.



Point out print in the environment and talk about what it means. Suggestions: on a local walk, point out road signs, shop names and door numbers.

Provide a wide range of stimulating equipment to encourage children's mark-making. Suggestions:

- large-scale sensory play, such as making marks with fingers in wet sand or in a tray of flour
- using sticks and leaves to make marks during Forest school sessions
- large brushes with paint or water
- dragging streamers through puddles
- once large-muscle co-ordination is developing well, children can develop small-muscle coordination
- playground chalk, smaller brushes, pencils and felt pens will support this.



Literacy

Help children to explore favourite books through linked activities:

- visiting the park or the countryside to splash through puddles and squelch through mud for 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'
- going out to buy chillies for 'Lima's Red Hot Chili'
- small world play linked to favourite books



You could learn songs and rhymes from parents. You could also teach parents the songs and rhymes you use in the setting, to support learning at home.

Children can choose the songs and rhymes they would like to join in with, using picture cards or by speaking.

Provide a comfortable place for sharing books, like a sofa. In warm weather, share books outside on a picnic rug or in small tents. Themed book areas can build on children's interests. Suggestions: relevant books close to small world play about dinosaurs, or cookbooks in the home corner.

Song and rhyme times can happen spontaneously throughout the day, indoors and outside, with individual children, in pairs or in small groups.

Choose songs and rhymes which reflect the range of cultures and languages of children in the twenty-first century. Avoid songs which include gender, cultural or racial stereotypes.

Provide enticing areas for sharing books, stocked with a wide range of high-quality books, matching the many different interests of children in the setting.

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