

Centre for Family Literacy

Alberta Prairie C.O.W. Bus

Winter Newsletter 2015



The Importance of Songs & Rhymes

Children Need Language to Learn

Literacy doesn't start in school, it starts at home. Children need a strong foundation in oral language before they can learn to read and write.

So how do you nurture their oral language development? It's simple. Use fun activities, like songs and rhymes.

Children learn language best through interaction. By adding finger movements, tickling, and cuddling when doing songs and rhymes, you are helping with language, fine motor skills, and dexterity.



Singing songs can be a great way to bond with and soothe your child, but did you know it's also good for you? Singing a lullaby can lull your baby to sleep, but it can also keep you calm.

Remember you can rhyme and sing in whatever language you are most comfortable with, including sign language. Children can learn multiple languages much easier than adults!

Oral language forms the basic building blocks of literacy. By taking the time to sing, rhyme, play, tickle and cuddle with your child, you are providing the sensory stimulation needed for the early brain and language development that leads to literacy skills and lifelong learning.

Rhymes & Learning Styles

Children learn faster and retain more information if you incorporate multiple learning styles into your activities. Try changing your favourite rhymes to be interactive finger puppets!

Materials

All you need is velcro and a mitten. Draw or print off your rhyme characters and have your children colour them in. If you would like the pictures to last longer, cover in packing tape or MACTac.

5 Little Penguins Skating All Around

Five little penguins skating all around,
One flew up and then fell down!
Mama called the Doctor, and the Doctor said,
"No more penguins skating all around!"

Four little penguins skating all around,
One flew up and then fell down!
Mama called the Doctor, and the Doctor said,
"No more penguins skating all around!"

Three little penguins skating all around,
One flew up and then fell down!
Mama called the Doctor, and the Doctor said,
"No more penguins skating all around!"

Two little penguins skating all around,
One flew up and then fell down!
Mama called the Doctor, and the Doctor said,
"No more penguins skating all around!"

One little penguins skating all around,
He flew up and then fell down!
Mama called the Doctor, and the Doctor said,
"No more penguins skating all around!"

No little penguins skating all around,
None flew up, and none fell down!
Mama called the Doctor, and the Doctor said,
"Let those penguins skate all around!"



Find out more about family literacy and upcoming C.O.W. visits at www.familit.ca or call the Centre for Family Literacy at 780-421-7323 (Toll Free 1-866-421-7323). Funded by the Government of Alberta