

## How To: Create a Rhyme Room

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A rhyme room gives children the freedom and security to focus on poems and language

Surrounding children with rhyme and rhythm helps to develop their awareness of the pattern of words. It can also demonstrate to them that by changing phonemes we alter the word and its use, laying the foundations for creative phonics work. One way of immersing children in rhymes and rhythms is by setting up a rhyme room or listening corner in your classroom.

This area is extremely flexible and can be used for teacher-led listening work and language development, or as a place where children can enjoy rhymes independently.

### Ingredients:

- An empty corner (or one created in the room by partitions)
- Tall card to create the sense of a discrete area
- A box or boxes of appropriate texts
- A tape or CD recorder with two or more headsets
- Tapes of traditional stories, rhymes and poems
- Children's work
- Small chairs

### Make

- ➔ Dress the walls with the tall card to create a discrete area and add a label: The Rhyme Room.
- ➔ Decorate the walls with images and characters taken from the stories. Mix up printed images with children's work.
- ➔ Place the boxes of tapes and CDs and the players in the corner, along with the collections of relevant books.
- ➔ Arrange the chairs pointing into the corner so that children's attention can be focused into the Rhyme room and not outwards towards the class.
- ➔ Allow pairs of children to use the corner, so that listening becomes a shared and enjoyable activity.

Traditional stories with strong rhythm and repetition to include: *The Gingerbread Man*, *Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *The Little Red Hen*, *Red Riding Hood* and *Henny Penny*.

Traditional rhymes with strong rhythm, suitable for role play and actions: *Old King Cole*, *Hickory Dickory Dock*, *Hickety Pickety My Fine Hen*, *One, Two, Three, Four, Five*, *Jack and Jill* and *Row, Row, Row the Boat*.

Counting songs: *Ten Fat Sausages*, *Five Little Speckled Frogs*, *Five Little Ducks Went Swimming One Day*, *Two Little Dicky Birds*, *Ten Green Bottles*, *Ten in a Bed* and *Five Little Peas*.

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