

Nursery Rhyme Cube Activities:

Main Idea:

The "Nursery Rhyme Cube" is a teachers' tool to be used at group time such as, "Circle". Depending on the pictures you place on the cube you can use it to sing songs, play games, or tell a story.

1. You can start off by tossing the cube in the air 3X's counting 1,2,3 as you toss.
2. Then roll it into the middle of the circle.
3. When the cube lands, talk about the **cube** (top, bottom, sides). Ask the children to describe what they see in the picture (on top). Then ask them what you could do as it relates to the picture - sing a song, play a game, or read?

Here are a few suggestions:

Baker:

-sing "The Muffin Man" and repeat by substituting a child's name and street name for "Drury Lane".

Bowl:

-tell the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears (use tiny bears and little girl for prop, and/or have the children say "laaa-deeeeeeee-daaaa" whenever you say "Goldilocks" and "Grrrrrrr" everytime you say "bear", etc...
-Play "Pease Porridge Hot (clap in partners)

Candlestick:

-say "Jack be Nimble" nursery rhyme (have the children come into the middle of the circle one at a time, ask them to tell you their names, and have everyone use their names instead of "Jack". Children jump over a miniature candlestick (or the cube) at the appropriate time during the rhyme. Repeat enough times so that all children get a chance...(repetition is important).

Clock with Mouse:

-talk about the new words "pendulum" and "grandfather clock"
-have children hold their elbow with their hand and make a pendulum with their arm
-whisper "tick-tock, tick-tock, tick-tock"
-the clock struck one, the mouse ran down...
-the clock struck two, the mouse said "Boo!"
-the clock struck three, the mouse said "Wheeeeeee!"

Dog:

-say "Hey Diddle Diddle"

-use activity cards (picture of cat, fiddle, cow, moon, dog laughing, dish, a spoon). Have the children lay out each card in order as you say the rhyme again, also, could make Bristol board crowns and place all of the pictures in sequence around the crown and then they could take it home.

-sing "BINGO" and clap where appropriate

Farmer:

-sing "Old MacDonald" and switch the first sound in "ee-igh-ee-igh-oh" (e.g. for pig sing "pee-igh, pee-igh-po", or for duck sing "dee-igh-dee-igh-doe")

-sing "Farmer in the Dell" if there are enough children (about 12 children - farmer, wife, child, dog, cat, rat, cheese, plus at least 5 children to make a circle around the outside)

-sing "BINGO" and clap where appropriate

-make large B I N G O, and turn them over as appropriate

Humpty Dumpty:

-get children to squat on the floor with only their feet touching the floor and have them curl up and pretend that they are eggs. Ask them to rock back and forth and then say the nursery rhyme. When Humpty 'has a great fall' fall backwards on your bottom!

Camel:

-sing "Alice the Camel" has (5) humps

-use number cards

Jack and Jill:

-sing "Jack and Jill" (have children sit on the floor with knees up and fingers on toes, then walk fingers up the knees when Jack and Jill climb the hill and have just one finger go down the leg when Jack falls.

-do this same thing, but use stick puppets

-discuss the meaning of the words "fetch" and "crown"

Rowboat:

-have children sit on the floor in groups of two and face each other and hold hands with knees up and pull back and forth like rowing a boat (or just have children pretend to row as individuals)

-sing it again, but this time, during the "Merrily Merrily Merrily Merrily" part, **switch the first sound**

-**use the first sound in children's names to switch the sounds**

Spider:

-sing "Itsy Bitsy Spider" song with: 1) normal voice, 2) great big voice, 3) teeny tiny voice and/or 4) no voice

-"Little Miss Muffet"

Teapot:

-sing "I'm a little Teapot"

-read the book "I'm a Little Teapot" by Iza Trapani (Whispering Coyote Press, 1996) if you have it and talk in detail about all of the wonderful pictures in this book. Be enthusiastic about learning about all of the interesting people, places, and things in our world.

Notes:

- Be sure to sing the songs and say the words very **SLOWLY (Slower than you think)**
- Once they have heard the rhyme or song a few times, **hush your voice a little and let the children be the main singers. Ask *them* to sing!**
- Pretend to talk to the characters on the cube (e.g. Humpty Dumpty) and pretend that they are asking you who is there (e.g. say, "yes...Jennifer is here...mmmhmmm, Jesse is here too!"), and then pretend that the character is asking if the boys and girls would be able to sing it louder or on their own (without much help from you).
- Add your own ideas! Just about anything goes! Don't do the things that you don't like. It is important to be enthusiastic. If you are feeling bored, find new sides for the cube & make up your own activities!

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