

## Poems with Young Children

It has been said, that nursery rhymes like Mother Goose are obsolete and no longer appropriate for today's children. BAH! They are timeless and a great tradition. Their importance can not be understated. They have a wonderful rhythm and offer a unique language experience. Of course, there are new poems and rhymes. They too can be good and beneficial. But for the sake of tradition and just for fun I have included a few of the old ones here. Watch the children's faces when you recite! You must recite them for the full effect. There's something about the rhythm in your voice that captures even the littlest child's attention.

Five little speckled frogs,  
Sitting on a hollow log,  
Eating some most delicious bugs, Yum, Yum.  
One frog jumped in the pool,  
Where it was nice and cool,  
Now there are four speckled frogs, Glub, glub.

Star light, star bright,  
First star I see tonight,  
I wish I may, I wish I might,  
Have the wish I wish tonight.

Baa, baa black sheep, Have you any wool?  
Yes sir, yes sir, Three bags full.  
One for my master, One for my dame,  
But none for the little boy,  
Who cries in the lane.

Dickory, dickory, dare,  
The pig flew in the air;  
The man in brown,  
Soon brought him down,  
Dickory, dickory, dare.

Hey diddle diddle,  
the cat and the fiddle,  
The cow jumped over the moon,  
The little dog laughed to see such sport,  
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

Hickory dickory dock,  
The mouse ran up the clock,  
The clock struck one, and down he run,  
Hickory dickory dock!

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.  
All the king's horses,  
And all the king's men,  
Couldn't put Humpty together again.

Hush-a-bye, baby, In the tree top.  
When the wind blows, The cradle will rock.  
When the bough breaks, The cradle will fall,  
And down will come baby, Cradle and all.

Jack and Jill went up a hill,  
To fetch a pail of water.  
Jack fell down and broke his crown,  
And Jill came tumbling after  
Jack be nimble, Jack be quick,  
Jack jump over the candlestick.  
Jack jump high or jack jump low  
jack jump up and away he goes

Little Jack Horner,  
Sat in a corner,  
Eating a Christmas pie.  
He stuck in his thumb,  
And pulled out a plum,  
And said, "What a good boy am I."

Little Bo Peep, has lost her sheep,  
And can't tell where to find them.  
Leave them alone,  
And they'll come home,  
Bringing their tails behind them.

Little Boy Blue, come blow your horn,  
The sheep's in the meadow, the cow's in the corn.  
Where is the boy who looks after the sheep?  
He's under the haystack, fast asleep.

Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet,  
Eating her curds and whey.  
There came a big spider,  
He sat down beside her.  
And frightened Miss Muffet away!

Mistress Mary quite contrary  
How does your garden grow?  
“With silver bells and cockle shells  
and pretty maids all in a row”

Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater,  
Had a wife and couldn't keep her;  
He put her in a pumpkin shell,  
And there he kept her very well.

There are many other wonderful poems. Some are in this book as finger plays and rhymes. I hope you have some from your childhood. Those are the ones that your students will like the most.