



## **Communication, Language, and Literacy** **Activity for 18 to 24 Months**

### **Promoting Language through Nursery Rhymes**

*Have fun singing, rhyming, and laughing.*

**Materials:**

- None

**What to do:**

1. Introduce the child to new songs and rhymes by singing or speaking them repeatedly throughout the day so he becomes familiar with them.
2. Help the child learn the motor movements within songs by holding his hands and doing the movements with him.
3. Encourage the child, once he is familiar with the actions, to imitate your actions independently.
4. Place a pause within your song before each motor movement to build the anticipation and encourage your child to do the movement independently. A child is more likely to communicate and take an active part when he is allowed pauses within interactions, believes the adult is waiting with anticipation for him to take a turn, believes his participation is expected and valued, and recognizes when it is his turn.
5. Use the described technique within songs and rhymes once the child has the word skills.
6. Slow your songs and words for a child to understand and participate. A child may not know what to do on the second, third or fourth time, but keep repeating and allowing chances for the child to know what is expected. He will take his turn when he is ready. Repetition is the key to learning language.

