

Poetry party (Celebrating National Poetry Day – 7th October 2021)

Create your own Christmas storybook advent calendar to keep children engaged in reading during the festive period.

Learning aims

- To enjoy songs, rhymes and poetry
- To join in with actions, words, phrases, and repeated refrains
- Develop vocabulary
- Explore sound and rhythm using musical instruments



Resources

- Paper and pens for parent and family invites
- A space for your poetry party
- Printer to print off book covers, poems, and nursery characters to decorate your poetry party space
- Dressing up clothes and props for acting out rhymes
- Musical instruments
- Visit a local library
- Recording device and headphones.

Activity Outline

Celebrate National Poetry Day with your very own poetry party

1. Invite children to come dressed as their favourite nursery rhyme character or to bring something in from home that relates to their favourite nursery rhyme. For example, a dish and a spoon for 'hey diddle diddle' or a favourite teddy bear for 'teddy bear, teddy bear'
2. Decorate a space for your poetry party with images, objects or lyrics from the children's favourite nursery rhymes and poems - this could be an indoor or outdoor space
3. Send invites to parents and families to come along and listen in or to share their own favourite poems with the children
4. Visit your local library to borrow some poetry books for young children.

Activities to support your poetry day

1. Bring all age groups together to sing the children's favourite songs and rhymes
2. Use a 'rhyme prop bag' and offer children the bag to choose an item that matches a rhyme. Ask the children if they know a rhyme with the item in and sing the rhyme together. For example, a child pulls out a star and the children identify the item as belonging to 'twinkle, twinkle little star'
3. Act out children's favourite rhymes. For example, build a wall for Humpty Dumpty
4. Read poetry to the children or encourage parents and family members to share their favourite poems
5. Play with words and make up your own nonsense rhymes
6. Use instruments to tap out the rhythm of a rhyme
7. Try out some alliteration rhymes – Peter Piper picked a pickled pepper
8. Record a range of rhymes and poems for children to listen to in your poetry party space.

Extending the activity

- Make your own poetry and rhyme book with images of the children acting out the rhymes and add their own made-up poems and rhymes. Keep the book in the book corner for children to read together.