



Having Fun With Rhyme

by
Judi Billcliff

This resource has been put together to make life that bit easier for teachers. This PDF contains a wide variety of poems for use in early childhood centres and junior classes. It's packed with poems to be performed. It is full of activity ideas for teachers. Children will relate to the rhymes and enjoy having them read over and over again.

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Judi is an experienced drama teacher and workshop presenter. The poems used are, or have been adapted, from the 'Granny Series.' Check out my website.

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Author's note:

I'm all about literacy for our children, and it concerns me that studies show us oral language levels are declining in our children. Many children are arriving at centres and schools with levels lower than expected. Busy working parents, struggling to do their best, and lots of screen time for children, appear to be playing a part in this decline.

What do we do about it? For you, as early childhood and junior classroom teachers, the responsibility is huge. You have to deal with what you're presented with on a daily basis.

Getting children talking is the first step. How do we do this? Rhyme has been proven to be one of the best tools in a child's oral language development. The musicality of rhyme draws a child in, making them want to be involved. For the child with a shorter attention span, they can enjoy a poem, where they may not manage an entire book.

I've put this resource together to give teachers some simple poems to use with children. They can be put up on the wall, put into their poem books, performed by the children, or the teacher can read them aloud. It's about encouraging the children to open up and talk. All poems are from my Granny Series, 'Granny Does The Boogey,' 'Granny Goes To Hip Hop,' and 'Granny Goes Bungy Jumping.' Some I've adapted for younger children.

Workshops I offer:

Bringing Books Alive

How we read to our children has a huge impact on their enjoyment. I can help you. I can run a workshop for a group, staff or parents.

I can also visit a centre and work one on one with the less confident reader/s on staff. More confident reading can be achieved.

Having Fun With Fantasy

Looking at simple forms of play. Get in touch with your inner child.

I'm also available to run sessions with your children.

I'm only one call away [Judi 027 531 5381](tel:0275315381). I'd love to hear from you.

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Little Lottie

Little Lottie loved to hide -
She thought that it was fun.
The trouble was she'd sneak away
Without telling anyone.

Mum can be a panic pants,
"It's Lottie, she's gone again.
Lottie, you better stop hiding
Before I count to ten!

Go and look in your wardrobe kids,
Go and look under my bed.
Go and look out in the laundry,
Then look in the garden shed.

Go and look in the bathroom,
And don't forget the shower."
"I've found her," Ben yelled, "In a pot
Pretending to be a flower."



*Where is the best
hiding place you've
ever found?*

*Do you like to play hide
and seek?*

*What games do you
like to play?*

*Leads to a discussion
about safety.*

Mr T Rex

I met a tyrannosaurus
Who said his name was Pete,
And his very favourite thing to do
Was find little boys to eat.

I felt my knees start shaking
And my stomach get butterflies.
He took a giant step towards me
And looked me right in the eyes.

I gave him a funny little smile -
I didn't know what else to do.
I was certain if I didn't leave
I'd end up in his stew.

He chuckled aloud, "It's dinner time,
I love having children for tea."
"Thank you for the offer Mr T Rex,
But you won't be eating me!"



What would you say to a dinosaur?

What noise do you think a dinosaur makes?

Can you walk like a dinosaur?

What Am I?

I have a huge, crooked nose,
I have razor sharp pointy teeth.
I have bright red shiny lips
With a wobbly chin underneath.

I have oodles of spikey ginger hair
That pokes out from under my hat.
I own a stripey broomstick
And a fluffy, round, black cat.



Draw a picture of what you think the person in the poem looks like.

This helps a child's visual memory from listening to words.

Words Werdz Wurds

Mum likes to boodlewoodle,
My dad likes to bellaloo.
My brother likes to chopalop,
My sister likes to charew.

My nana can't stop nanoodling,
My poppa has to pillop.
My cat can't stop scilapping,
My dog has to dinkety dop.

My rat spends his day rinunning,
My guinea pig has to grapoo.
My fish spends his day swilushing,
My rabbit always has to snuffoo.

What about me? What do I like?
I like to maycupnewurds -
There's only one rule that I follow,
They must all be completely absurd.



Do you know the alphabet?

What are these letters?

Can you make up a funny word?

*Get children to sing a song
they know with made up words.
E.g. Twinkle, twinkle, little bellar,
how I wonder what you dofar.*

Help Mum Is A Hen

One day when I jumped out of bed
Something weird did happen.
My mum was clucking like a hen
And her arms were busy flappin.

PLUCK PLUCK PLUCK PLUCK
Was the only thing I heard.
I shouted, "Dad come quick and see
Mum's acting like a bird."

As Dad came into the kitchen
He stretched, then sat on the mat -
Purrr, purrr, meow meow,
"Help, my dad's a cat."

When he saw the clucking hen
It got him all excited,
Meeow Meeow PLUCK PLUCK PLUCK,
The hen was not delighted.

She was running around the kitchen
Getting all upset,
Suddenly she squatted down
And laid a big round egg.

Mum was plucking and Dad was
hissing,
But do you know what I liked most?
I locked them both out in the yard
And cooked scrambled egg on toast.



*What animal would you like to be? What noise does it make?
This poem is a great one to act out*

Snorabella

When Bella goes to bed at night
Her family lies awake,
As the minute that she nods off
The house begins to shake.

Rattle, rattle, rattle,
Windows on the move,
Followed by the wooden floor
Swinging in the groove.

As the walls begin to shudder
Her family start to weep,
"Stop snoring Snorabella,
Your family cannot sleep."

She breathes in with a snorting
noise
Sounding like a pig.
Breathing out, she puffs so hard
She could blow off grandma's wig.

Snort, snort, oink, oink,
Then Snorabella blows,
And everyone starts shaking
From their head down to their
toes.

When you're visiting Bella's house
You better be prepared.
Take ear plugs and your ear muffs
For when Snorabella goes to bed.



Does anyone in your house snore like this boy?

This poem is a great one to act out as a group.

My Messy Room!

Help! I can't seem to shut the door,
There's too much stuff on the floor.
Mum growls at me, "Tidy your room,"
I keep saying, "I'll do it soon."

My clothes are piled up so high
They can nearly touch the sky,
I probably should put away some things,
I'll start with my dolls, books, and rings.

Tidying my room just isn't fun,
I'm never going to get this done.
Wow, I found Barbie and my bear
That I've not seen in nearly a year!

I cleaned my room, it took all day,
Now I've got lots of time to play.
I guess tidying my room wasn't so bad
As best of all, now Mum isn't mad.



Do you have a messy room?

Do you help tidy up?

Can you help tidy up today?

***Leads to a discussion about
helping and sharing jobs.***

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'Granny Goes Bungy Jumping.'

Crazy Hair

Help me, I've got crazy hair
With a mind all of its own,
It seems to get even crazier
At the sight of a brush or comb.

It's really curly when it's dry,
It's worse when it gets wet.
When Mum appears with the brush
I call out, "No Mum, not yet."

At times I look like a unicorn
At times I look like a moose.
It's bad enough when it's tied up,
It's a disaster when it's loose.

Sometimes people tease me,
They say, "Your hair's a mess."
But Mum says, "They're just jealous,
You're the one who's blessed."



Do you have crazy hair?

*Do you like having your hair
brushed?*

*Can you look like a moose or
a unicorn?*

It's Not Fair

"Are those your strawberries?
How many have you got?"
"I haven't got all that many,
But you've got an awful lot."

"I'm going to count mine,
Hang on, I've only got eight!"
"Oh dear, how sad for you,
I can see more on my plate."

"I knew that you had more than me,
And I don't think that's fair!"
"I've got more than you?
Like I even care."

"That's it you two, I've had enough."
Grandma snapped at us with a glare,
Then to our surprise she ate the lot
As if we weren't even there!



What fruit do you like to eat?

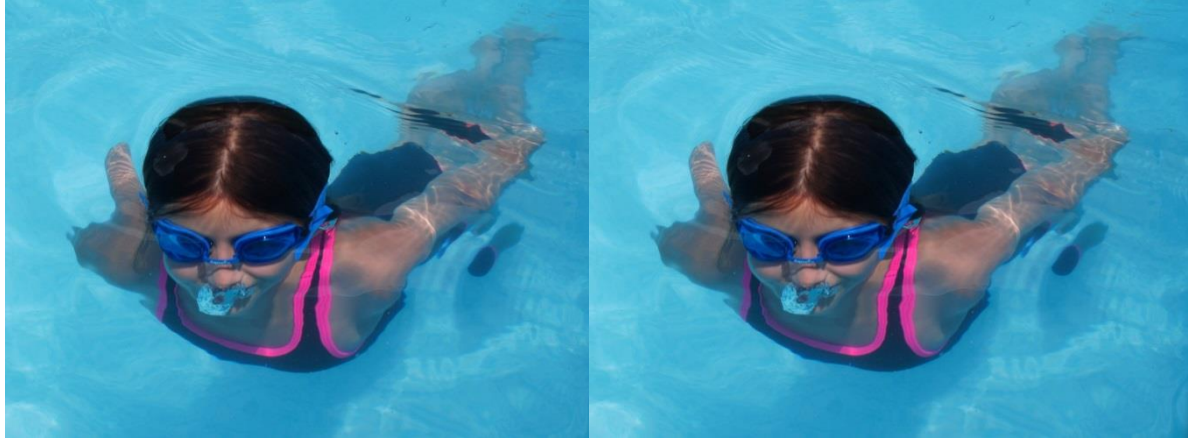
What other fruit or vegetables are red?

Pretend to pick a juicy red apple. What does it taste like? Yummy or yukky?

Discussion about sharing.

Bubble Blowing Rose

There was a girl called Rose,
Who blew bubbles out her nose.
She blew them in summer,
But it was a bummer
When she tried it in winter and froze.



Bottom Sniffing

Dogs like sniffing bottoms,
They do it all the time.
It's okay when they sniff one other's
But I wish they wouldn't sniff mine.

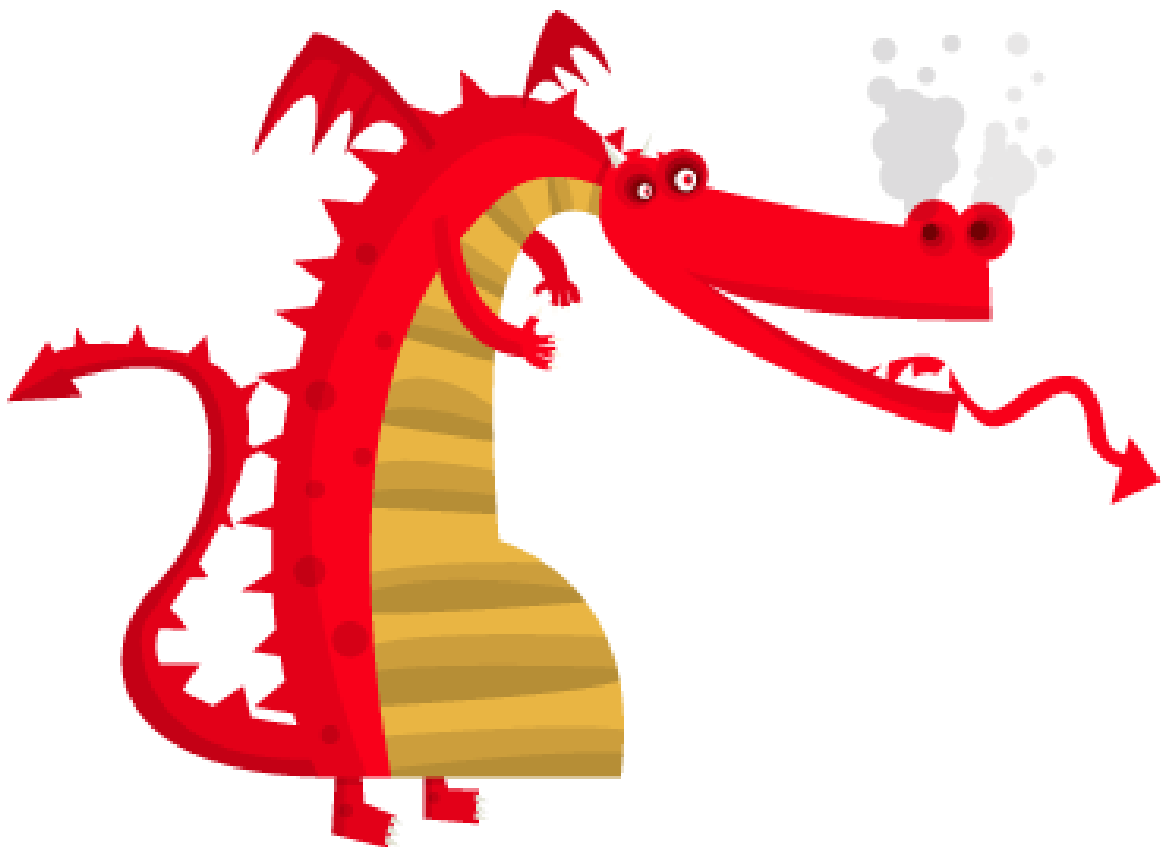


What funny things does your dog do?

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Run...Run...Run

Dragons are awfully mean and vicious
And find us humans very delicious.
Dragons have scaly wings to fly -
You'll see them gliding through the sky.
Dragons breathe out fire that's hot,
Hot enough to boil a pot.
Remember the next time when you see one,
My advice to you is... run....run...RUN!



*How fast would you run if you saw a dinosaur?
Pretend to be a dinosaur looking for delicious people to eat.*

Let's Fly To The Rainbow

I love to see a rainbow
All colourful in the sky.
They make me wish that I had wings
And that I could fly.
I'd fly up there and sit on top,
Looking at the view,
Then I'd flap my wings and jump right off
And fly back down to you.

Where Do Fairies Really Live?

Where do fairies live?
Does anyone really know?
I think I know where they live,
Deep inside a rainbow?
I'm sure I saw a fairy fly
Inside one the other day,
But the rain stopped, the sun came out,
And the rainbow went away.



Funky Monkey

My Dad took us out for a special treat
He took us to the zoo,
Where we saw a cheeky monkey
Wearing bright green sparkly shoes.
He was wearing funky sunglasses
And a red and blue striped shirt.
He was munching on bananas
And yoghurt for dessert.
When he saw us watching him
He offered us a bite,
But sharing food with a monkey,
Didn't seem quite right.



*What do you think the funky monkey would look like?
Draw your own funky monkey.
Which of these monkeys looks the funniest?*

Sand Sand Everywhere

I've got sand in me togs Mum
I've got sand in me hair.
I've got sand in me togs Mum
It seems to have gone everywhere.
I've got sand all over me,
It's stuck to me like gum.
When I look inside me togs
I can see it on me tum.
I've got sand all over me,
It's really annoying me.
I want to take me togs off,
But everyone will see.
"Mum, you're not listening to me,
You're supposed to help your daughter.
It's ok Mum, I've worked it out -
I'll wash it off in the water."



What do you think the little girl is saying to her Mum?

What do you do when you go to the beach?

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Blue Lamb

Is that a little blue lamb I see?
Maybe someone is tricking me.
What would make a lamb turn blue?
I have no idea - do you?

"Little lamb, little lamb, why are you blue?"
"Little girl, little girl, I won't tell you."
"Little lamb, little lamb, please say why."
"Little girl, little girl, I rolled in the dye."



How many lambs can you see?
How many girls can you see?
Can you name some other things that are blue?

Dog Biscuit Anyone?

One dog biscuit, two dog biscuits
Three dog biscuits, four.
How many dog biscuits
Can a dog leave on the floor?
She leaves them behind the cushions
She leaves them in my bed
She hides them behind the sofa
She hides them in the shed.
She doesn't seem to like them
She wants to give them away.
But my baby sister likes them -
She eats them every day.



What number can you count to?

Can you remember where the dog hides the biscuits?

Have you ever eaten anything yukky?

Discussion about healthy or safe eating.

Humpty's Accident

Humpty Dumpty perched on a wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a bad fall,
All the queen's corgis and all the king's men
Couldn't put Humpty together again.

Now Humpty's mother warned him
"Don't climb on the wall,
I saw a great big crack in it,
And I think that it could fall."

But Humpty Dumpty ignored her
And decided to take a gamble,
But instead of having lots of fun
He ended up all scrambled.

The moral of the story is
To avoid a broken leg.
Listen to your Mother
And don't act like an egg.

Happy Humpty

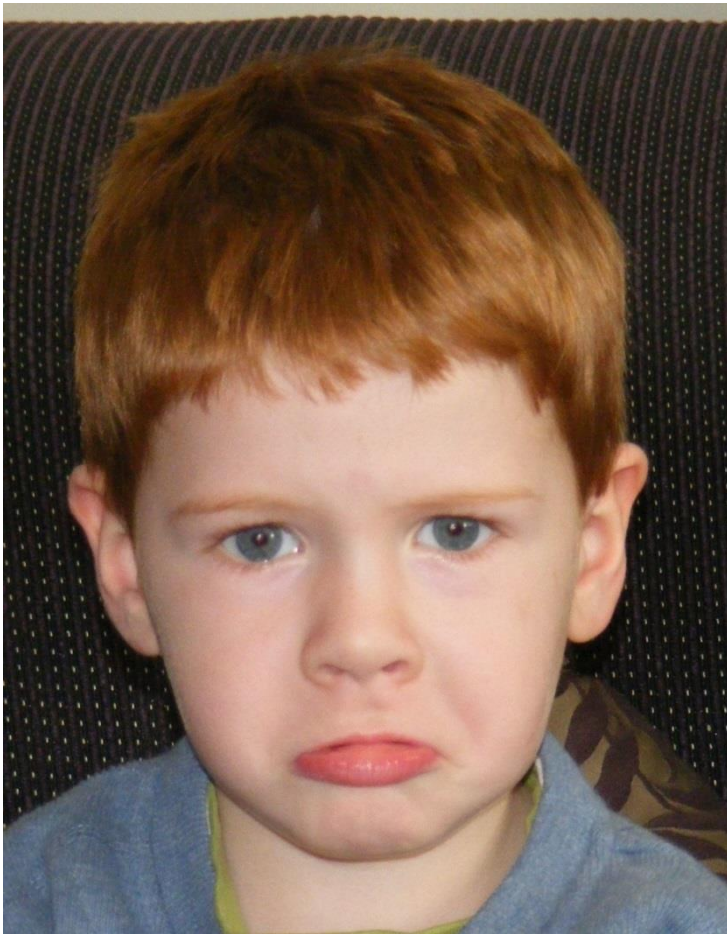


*Do you think Humpty should have done what his mother said?
Why do you think children should listen to their parents?
Great for children to act out. Leads to keeping safe
discussion.*

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Gunna

I'm not gunna do my homework,
I'm not gunna sweep the floor.
I'm not gunna help my sister,
I'm not gunna help anyone anymore!
I'm not gunna do the dishes
I'm not gunna feed the cat.
I'm gunna sit and ignore you all,
What do you think of that?



*Why is this boy looking grumpy?
Do you help your Mum and Dad?
What jobs do you do to help?*

***Get children to draw/pull happy, sad or angry faces.
Good lead in to discuss emotions and behaviours.***

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What's For Dinner?

"Mum, what's for dinner?"

Is a question Mum often hears.

"I'm cooking up some snails
And roasted piggy's ear."

"Mum, you're being silly,
We only want to know."

"We're having pickled hedgehog
With boiled up rotten toes."



What's your favourite dinner?

What are some healthy foods?

Pretend to mix up a dinner with things like worms and frogs.

Should everyone help cook dinner?

Write a recipe using funny or unusual ingredients.