

Snip Snap Crocodile

Action and other rhymes in Gryphon's Garden



Gryphon loves to chant and recite in his garden

It's a great way to:

- increase verbal skills, expand vocabulary and horizons
- interact with a partner or larger groups and understand turn taking
- learn to follow or synchronise actions with each other
- learn to start and stop and discover the value of rules
- use children's natural response to rhythm and rhyme
- sharpen listening skills
- improve memory
- continue the tradition of children's verse from this and other countries
- be creative, there are many opportunities change words or actions, add verses, use different voices or change roles
- above all to have lots of tremendous fun – even the most timid child will follow the rhyme and with the group soon begin to join in.

Question and answer rhymes

Sit the children in two lines facing and looking at each other. Once the children are familiar with the rhyme each group take turns to ask and answer questions using good expression (make sure you sound quizzical for the questions). Swap over. Who was most effective? Why? Encourage use of different voices – loud, soft, angry, amused. What other voices could they use?

Atishoo

Are you going to golf sir?

No sir.

Why sir?

Because I've got a cold sir.

Where did you get the cold sir?

Up at the North Pole sir.

What were you doing there sir?

Catching polar bears sir.

How many did you catch sir?

*One sir, two sir, three sir, four sir,
five sir, six sir, seven sir, eight sir,
nine sir, ten sir – that's all there
were sir!* Shrug and throw out hands

Poor old pussy

Rat-a-tat-tat

Who is that?

Only grandma's pussy cat

What do you want?

A pint of milk

Where's your money?

In my pocket

Where's your pocket?

Oh I forgot it

Oh you silly old pussy cat!

Snip, snap, Crocodile

Action and other rhymes

In most of these rhymes the words suggested the actions. Use voice variation and facial expression for effect.

If you should meet a crocodile

If you should meet a crocodile

Wag finger back and forth

Don't take a stick and poke him

Wag finger from side to side and poke

Ignore the welcome in his smile,

Draw big smile with two fore fingers

Be careful not to stroke him.

Stroke back of hand

For as he sits upon the Nile,

Put one hand on top of the other, open and close

He thinner gets and thinner;

Move palms slowly together

And whenever you meet a crocodile . . . ,

Wag finger back and forth

He's ready for his dinner!

Rub tummy

SNAP! SNAP! SNAP!

Extend arms, open and close

Anon

Flattery is splattery

Children adore the gruesome nature of this rhyme and begin to understand the perils of flattery

Six little mice sat down to spin,

Spin with first fingers and thumbs

Pussy passed by and she crept in.

Make hands into creeping paws

“What are you doing my fine little men?”

Slyly

“We're weaving coats for gentlemen.”

Spin with first fingers and thumbs

“May I come in and cut of your threads?”

Snip with fingers two and three

“Oh no Mistress Pussy you'd cut off our heads!”

Draw finger across throat

Said Pussy, “I think you are wonderfully wise,

In a dripping, flattering voice

I love your long whiskers and your round black eyes”

Indicate whiskers and eyes

The mice were so pleased that they opened their doors.

Open door enthusiastically

And Pussy soon laid them all dead on the floor!

Sweep hand across

Up the tall white candlestick

Up the tall white candlestick

Right arm upright

Crept little Mousie Brown,

Fingers on left hand creep from elbow up

Right to the top

But he could get down.

Use facial expression and shrug

So he called for his grandma;

“Grandma, grandma!”

Cup hands to mouth

But grandma was in town.

Turn hands outward and shrug

So he curled himself up in a ball,

Ball fists

And came tumbling down

Roll arms round each other

The kangaroo *Traditional*

Old Jumpety-Bumpety-Hop-and Go-One
Was lying asleep on his side in the sun.
This old kangaroo, he was whisking the flies,
With his long glossy tail, from his ears and his eyes.
Jumpety-Bumpety-Hop-and Go-One
Was lying asleep on his side in the sun,
Jumpety-Bumpety-Hop!

Pussie at the fireside

Pussie at the fireside
Suppin' pease brose:
Down came a cinder
And burnt pussie's nose.

'Oh,' said Pussie,
'That's not fair!'
'Oh,' said the cinder,
'You shouldna been there!'

Diddle, diddle, dumpling

Diddle, diddle, dumpling, my son John,
Ate a pasty five feet long;
He bit it once, he bit it twice,
Oh, my goodness, it was full of mice!