



Stories and Rhymes

Week 1	Nursery Rhymes
Week 2	Traditional Tales
Week 3	Folktales
Week 4	Ballads and Fables



Our character education focus will be on developing the concepts of *commitment* and *loyalty*.

Dear Family,

During the next four weeks, we will be discovering stories in many forms and formats. Children will explore traditional and modern rhymes; stories delivered through poetry, chants, and ballads; and stories from many cultures. Sometimes children will sing the stories. Sometimes they will role-play the stories, making the characters come alive through their actions. Sometimes they will change familiar stories to create their own. Prepare to hear reports about the wonderful characters they are meeting.

Literacy

As we begin this theme, children will recite and learn many traditional nursery rhymes. Sometimes we give them a bit of a twist like Dr. Becky Bailey has done with “Wonderful Woman.” This poem is a new version of the traditional poem “There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe.” Learn this one and enjoy reciting it with your child.

Wonderful Woman

by Becky Bailey

A wonderful woman lived in a shoe
(hold hands)
She had so many children
 (“Lead” partner turns other partner’s hands
 over palms up)
She knew exactly what to do.
 (“Lead” touches each finger of partner’s hand)
She held them. She rocked them,
 (“Lead” closes partner’s hand in a fist and
 rocks it gently)
And tucked them in bed.
 “I love, I love you,” is what she said.

Math

Children will begin to collect data and organize it in simple graphs. We use tally marks to keep track of our data. You will also hear your child using ordinal numbers (first, second, third) to indicate order. Help your child practice at home with a simple sorting activity. Make an observation. For example, say: *The glass of milk is bigger than the salt shaker.* Ask your child to identify something else that is bigger than the salt shaker. Continue and then switch to smaller objects. Say: *My carrot stick is smaller than the salt shaker.* Physically sort the objects into two groups or keep a tally mark count. Repeat the activity with other comparing words, such as longer and shorter, thicker and thinner, heavier and lighter.

Notes

For additional at-home activities, see the *Stories and Rhymes* PATT Mat.