



**READY,  
SET,  
KINDERGARTEN!**



# Rhyming

**Why is it important?** Rhyming is a known predictor of how successful a child will be at reading. This isn't a skill to stress about, but it's something to make sure your child has been introduced to. It's also an easy way to engage your child in other important skills like number recognition, motor skills, and positional words.

**Everyday Tip:** Practicing rhyming at home is so fun and can easily be made into a game. Ask your child whether they'd like a snack that rhymes with "capcs" or a snack that rhymes with "stackers." Make silly rhymes out of their names, and start learning some of these rhymes.

**Activity:** On the second page of this week's homework, I've provided a few fun rhymes with reasons why they're great to practice with your little one. Find some time to do them together, or find some rhymes that your child likes and practice those. Many kindergarten screenings will ask your child to recite a rhyme or song they're familiar with.

Feel free to use a mix of classic rhymes you already know and newer rhymes. Don't be afraid to use actions. Depending on the rhyme, it might utilize fine motor skills or gross motor skills (both are important for kindergarten readiness). Also, it's fun!

### Ten Little Chicks

Five eggs and five eggs (hold up ten fingers)  
that makes ten  
sitting on top is mother hen (cover one hand with the  
other)

Crack, crack, crack (clap three times)  
what do I see? (shrug)

Ten little chicks,  
as cute as can be! (hold up ten fingers)

Bonus: Do the actions and your child will be counting  
as well as developing fine and gross motor skills!

### Ten Little Fingers

I have ten little fingers and ten little toes  
Two little arms and one little nose  
One little mouth and two little ears  
Two little eyes for smiles and tears  
One little head and two little feet  
and one little chin! That's me! Complete!

Bonus: Some kindergarten standards ask that the child  
have a strong "sense of self." This sweet rhyme  
addresses that.

### Little Miss Muffet

Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet  
eating her curds and whey.  
Along came a spider, who sat down beside her  
and frightened Miss Muffet away!

Bonus: Do the actions to build fine motor skills. Scare  
your child at the end for non-stop giggles

### Hickory Dickory Dock

Hickory dickory dock,  
The mouse ran up the clock!  
The clock struck one, The mouse ran down,  
Hickory, Dickory, Dock!

Bonus: Repetition is great for your child's developing  
brain! Sit on the couch together with a clock or a watch  
and do this one while pointing to the numbers. You  
might get sick of it, but your little one won't. You'll be  
building number recognition skills and familiarizing  
them with clocks (not to mention the sweet cuddle  
time. Get it in while you can! They're starting school  
soon!)

### Open them shut them

Open them shut them,  
open then shut them,  
give a little clap, clap, clap!

Open them shut them,  
open them shut them,  
put them in your lap, lap, lap!

Creep them crawl them,  
creep them crawl them,  
right up to your chin, chin, chin!

Open up your little mouth...  
but don't let them in!

Bonus: Build fine and gross motor skills with this one  
while being very silly

### The Grand Old Duke of York

The grand old Duke of York,  
He had ten thousand men,  
He marched them up to the top of the hill and he  
marched them down again.

And when they were up they were up.  
And when they were down they were down.  
And when they were only half way up,  
They were neither up nor down.

Bonus: Stand up, squat, and chair sit during this rhyme  
for a gross motor skill bonus for the kiddo and a leg  
workout for the grown-up!