

# Why not try this at home..?

## Tips and ideas to help you develop your toddler's communication skills

### Have a rhyme time in October

Teach your child some simple nursery rhymes and sing these together every chance you get. When your child is familiar with a rhyme you could sing the rhyme but make a mistake and see if your child can spot what you've done. For example, you could sing "Twinkle, twinkle little hat..." (saying "hat" instead of "star").

Repeating rhymes helps your child to learn new words. And singing is important in developing your child's communication because it helps them to develop a sense of rhythm and rhyme which allows them to tune into the sounds of language.

You can search online for the words to other nursery rhymes and to hear the tunes. Your local library may have books full of rhymes you can borrow. Or you can find rhyme sheets online at [www.bookstart.org.uk](http://www.bookstart.org.uk)

Have you heard about rhymetime sessions at libraries? You can find out more about them and hear a recording of one online at [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk)



## Tips

- Watch the moon over a month and talk about how it changes shape. Sing a nursery rhyme that mentions the moon such as **Hey Diddle Diddle the Cat and the Fiddle** with your child.
- Your child can tune into the sounds of language by singing nursery rhymes. Try singing **Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star** with them.
- Sing nursery rhymes with your child. Using different rhythms helps with their early reading skills.

**Twinkle, twinkle little star,  
How I wonder what you are.  
Up above the world so high,  
Like a diamond in the sky.  
Twinkle, twinkle little star,  
How I wonder what you are.**

For more ideas and to find the other activity sheets in this series, go to [www.surreycc.gov.uk/earlylearning](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/earlylearning)