

You Can... **Put nursery rhymes in the news**

Encourage parents and carers to look through local newspapers with their children, particularly if they share an interest, such as a sport or local news story. Let children bring in some of the news stories that interest them, particularly in the local news.

Thinking points

- Check that your children know common nursery rhymes to use as the basis for their own stories. You may wish to encourage EAL children to do this work in their first language.
- This kind of project is a good one to work on as a home-school project with parents who feel less confident about reading. The context of Humpty Dumpty is fairly unthreatening. To emphasise that some newspapers have cartoon strips, children and parents could create a Humpty Dumpty cartoon strip as a joint project.
- More independent learners can be encouraged to create their own publications around different nursery rhymes or other texts.

Links to Letters and Sounds

- Phase 1/2: focus on rhyme – make sets of rhyming words; explore the implications of changing ‘wall’ to ‘box’ or to ‘chair’. How might the rhyme change?
- Phase 3/4: focus on syllables and rhythm – *how many syllables in Humpty Dumpty? How many two-syllable words in the whole rhyme?* Clap the rhythm of ‘*all the king’s horses and all the king’s men*’.
- Phase 5/6: Look at, for example: the word ending on *Humpty*; the sound of the three adjacent consonants *mpt*; different ways of representing the phoneme /or/; short vowel phonemes.

Tips, ideas and activities

- Agree a nursery rhyme as the basis for a shared reading and writing session. ‘Humpty Dumpty’ is probably the easiest. Write the words for all the children to read.
- ‘Unpick’ the written code to enable children to read the rhyme (see links to *Letters and Sounds*, below).
- Revisit the rhyme to look at the meaning and encourage children to ask questions about the events in the rhyme. As far as possible, let the children ask the questions. Younger ones may need a little prompting, for example:
 - *Why was Humpty Dumpty on the wall?*
 - *Are there many egg-people around in the world?*
 - *What was he doing that made him fall off the wall?*
- Ask children to chat with a talk partner to begin to generate answers to the questions.
- Use role play to further expand on the questions and answers. Let the children work in pairs: they can take turns to be Humpty Dumpty on the wall and one of the King’s Men. In role, ask them to explore answers to the questions.
- Let children make photograph storyboards of their role play. They can then use the storyboards as a springboard for writing.
- Show children a glossy magazine format and explain that they are going to be asked to produce an article on Humpty Dumpty for such a publication. Talk about features of the articles such as:
 - Photographs and pictures.
 - A heading.
 - Short paragraphs of text.
- Ask children to use illustrations and their photograph stories to make and publish their own ‘Humpty Dumpty’ magazine.
- The writing can include mark making or can be carried out using ICT writing supports as necessary.