



Movement, songs, rhythm and rhyme



Friedrich Froebel was a pioneer of Early Education and Childcare from the early 19th century. Today we still follow his ideas as we look at his Froebelian approach in our nursery. Froebel believed in the importance of an integrated approach to encourage a child to make sense of their world. A child's first interaction is with their parent this is where his idea of 'Mother Songs' came from. As humans we are naturally drawn to music. Singing is a universal activity. Music and movement will encourage a child to feel not only like they are having fun but they are actively involved.

Froebel's 6 stages of progression

1. Lullabies
2. Rhymes/Songs that use the whole hand
3. Rhymes/Songs that use the fingers
4. Crossing the mid line (songs that encourage hand movements across the body)
5. Rhymes/Songs that use the whole body
6. Rhymes/Songs that use the whole body and introduce games and movement

In nursery we encourage all kinds of songs and rhymes. They are all as important as each other. Singing is used to develop communication, language and early literacy skills. It is also important to facilitate everyday routines, a singing voice is a useful way to attract a child's attention. Although we sometimes have planned singing times singing takes place throughout the day. Singing can also be spontaneous when children make bands and take part in shows.



'The children learn songs incredibly fast, especially if you sing them very clearly and slowly altogether in chorus. Even if little ones do not outwardly seem to join in, they are thinking it all to themselves'

Why are rhymes and songs important?

- It expands a child's imagination
- Improves vocabulary
- Gives children practice in pitch and volume as well as the rhythm of language
- Are easy to repeat, so they can become first sentences
- They are FUN!!!!

Home ideas

- Sing with your child.
- If it is a counting song use objects for them to see the number increase/decrease
- Sing silly songs and encourage your child to make up their own songs.