

A rhyme in time

Stories and poetry

30 minutes

You will need:

Colourful marker pens

Large paper, such as a flipchart or lining paper

Optional:

An audio device

A selection of poetry, nursery rhymes, and limericks

One-to-one



Nostalgic
Stimulating
Expressive

This activity uses familiar rhymes and rhyming patterns such as well-loved nursery rhymes and limericks as a starting point to create your own. It is good fun and works well in community spaces like libraries, care home lounges and day centres.

To prepare:

The activity works best in a circle or around a table so everyone can easily see and hear each other.

Start the activity in an open and approachable way – a good way to do this can be to get out the tea and biscuits, and wear a smile!

To begin:

Set the scene by reciting, or playing through an audio device, a few well-known nursery or traditional rhymes. Once you have done a couple, open the floor and invite other people in the group to share rhymes that they know. This is contagious and people will automatically join in without much encouragement!

Once you have shared a couple of rhymes as a group, you could try a simple game where you leave out the last word of each sentence in a rhyme and the participants have to fill in the gaps.

Next:

Once everyone has loosened up, begin to alter the words of well-known rhymes to suit your own themes. You could start doing this by changing a single word or whole sentences, working in a way that suits your group.

For example, 'Twinkle, twinkle little star' could become 'Twinkle, twinkle little car'. And 'How I wonder what you are' could become 'I wonder if I can drive far'. There are no hard or fast rules. Be as flexible and creative as possible.

Can you pick a couple of rhymes to re-write? Or could you create a limerick together?

As people speak you can write down any lines, verses, sayings, little 'gems' of words that the participants contribute. You can also write down the poems / limericks on a flipchart or large sheet of paper.

To finish:

Finish the activity by reading back the poems that have been created – you could read or members of the group may want to. Can you pick which you like best? And give names to your creations?

You could also:

Work on rhymes individually to share at the end of the activity.

Credit:

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