

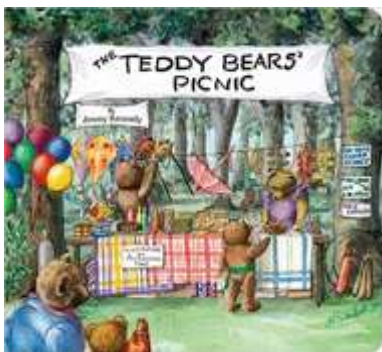


## Five things to do with under twos: Literacy

Singing songs, hearing stories, and reciting silly rhymes can be shared with the whole family, creating a sense of belonging, for example invite other family members to recite their version of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat* or *The Incy Wincey Spider*.

Rhymes help your toddler begin to feel confident using words and can be sung or recited anywhere – in the bath, cooking or on the way to the shop – and will make the words meaningful to them. Try *Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush* and insert your routine into the song, “This is the way we wash our hair” “butter our toast” or “walk to the shops on a cold and frosty morning!” This ‘playing with words’ will help them build their bank of vocabulary when they begin to learn to read.

Introduce action songs such as *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*, *Five Little Ducks*, *Five Little Speckled Frogs* and *1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive*. Going faster and faster and then slower and slower adds excitement and variety. Or pretend to forget the words so your child finishes the rhyme!



Make literature come alive! Go for a *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* walk through splashy puddles and squelchy mud, take your child's favourite stuffed bear on a *Teddy Bears' Picnic* or act out stories with small world dolls, cars and props.

Books can be expensive, so consider joining the library – make it a grand family occasion and a special treat. There are often free circle-time sessions at the library for the under 5s and this is a good time to enjoy group interaction with your toddler.

