

Naughty Schoolyard Rhymes

(Target audience: Preschool)

Integrate this into your program for young children.

This very simple activity will have everyone giggling and interested in funny poetry rhymes. You might set up a display of funny poetry from the list included in this manual.

1. Begin by talking about jump-rope rhymes and other schoolyard poetry and ask the children if they know any. Have everyone sing the Happy Birthday song after which you read this funny variation:

Happy birthday to you
You live in a zoo
You look like a monkey (scratch arm pits)
Happy Birthday to you
(Make actions sounds like a monkey, e-e-e-e-e)

2. Now, have everyone sing the funny rhyme with the actions. Introduce David Booth's book and read more silly verses and sing more silly songs.

Doctor Knickerbocker and Other Rhymes: A Canadian Collection by David Booth

"Happy Birthday" page 11

"Jingle Bells" page 18

"Mary Had a Little Lamb" page 26

Another good resource:

Anna Banana: 101 Jump-Rope Rhymes by Joanna Cole

Check your shelves for other simple, funny rhymes.