

Hello wonderful Little Sprouts families,

Change is in the air. Summer is transitioning into fall, the wind has a chill, the apples will soon be ripe, and many of our friends are now in school. With the changing seasons and school on the mind, it seems fitting for us to begin a new focus as well. We have spent many months exploring the seasons and our summer was spent with the fairies, and now, just like our school friends, we are going to shift our play to explore academics. We will spend our next few months on a gentle introduction into Language Arts. We will begin this journey focusing on rhyming and answering *How*, *Where* and *What* questions. These questions will lend themselves beautifully to our social emotional focus of identifying and sharing our feelings.

The Waldorf methodology understands that a firm foundation in language is the key to future reading success. In the early years, this is developed through storytelling, language development and word play. We will embrace this idea as we play through our theme of Nursery Rhymes. When we gather for circle time, we will delight in the handplay of Hickory Dickory Doc, take turns jumping over Jack be Nimble's candle stick, and go on a hunt for Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone. In addition to this, our mystery box will have a nursery rhyme clue attached to it and we will use it to guess *what* is inside the box. Our circle time will help our children build their skills in following a group plan, motor planning, gross motor skills, impulse control, taking turns, waiting in line, and the academic standards of rhyming and understanding and answering *where* and *what* questions.

This month's feeling focus will usher in a new welcome song, "Halo a H-uile Duine" which translates to hello everybody. I found it this summer when my kids wanted to learn Scottish Gaelic. With a tweak or two to the English translation, it makes a wonderful song of welcoming and gives our children a chance to identify and answer *how* they are feeling. We will use a feeling visual to point to our feeling and, when ready, can verbalize our answer to the lyric, "How are you today?" This new song will help build their patience, focus, understanding of social greetings, inquiry into *how* someone is feeling, and the understanding that others have feelings which don't always match our own. It will also meet the academic standard of understanding, producing, and answering *how* questions.

Our fine motor crafts will stem from the nursery rhyme clue on the mystery box. The answer to what is inside will be the theme for the craft that day. We will create a pom pom lamb, a spider that can climb a waterspout, the little old lady with her children who lived in a shoe, and as a group cook something scrumptious with Tessa. By bringing the nursery rhymes to life through crafting these playthings, our children will have the opportunity to revisit these rhymes time and time again solidifying their understanding of verse and rhyme. This will create a wonderful opportunity to dive deeper into the concept of rhyming at home. They will also be building hand strength, following simple directions, sharing materials, practicing the pincer grasp, asking for help, working through frustration, impulse control, building focus, and sensory exploration.

Below, you will find the links and words to the wonderful songs and verses for this month. Please feel free to sing and practice these with your kiddos ahead of time and all month long. This preview and practice will help

to ease the anxiety and stress that new experiences and changes can bring. Which in turn, allows your child the calm they need to learn and grow.

May your month be spent
cozy and content.

Warmest regards,
Emily

Welcome Song: Halo a H-uile Duine (Hello Everybody) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNNUOCOY_8I

Hello Everybody x2

How are you today?

(name) is feeling _____

That's how she/he's doing today

Movement Rhymes

Jack Be Nimble <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0-93TPksZk>

Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5UjR23W3Kk>

Finger Play

Hickory Dickory Doc https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxoSyFkX_eA

Mealtime Verse-

Thank you for our happy hearts

For rain and sunny weather

Thank you farmers for this food

And that we are together

Clean up song- skip forward to 3:00

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXPTN-lw46I>

