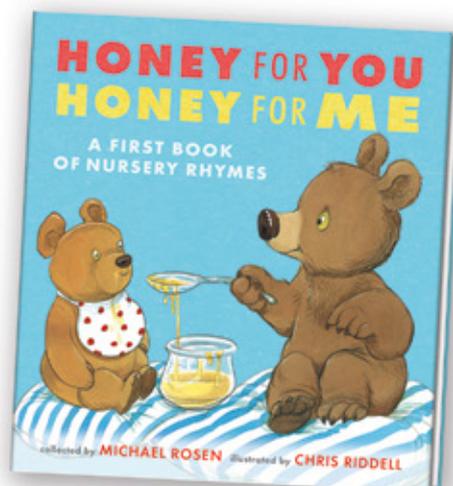


# STORYTELLING FUN WITH HONEY FOR YOU HONEY FOR ME

A First Book of Nursery Rhymes

By Children's Laureates **MICHAEL ROSEN** & **Chris Riddell**

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**Flying pigs, wobbling plates of jelly and a giant with a terrible fear of mice: welcome to the topsy-turvy world of nursery rhymes. Expect familiar faces, from little Jumping Joan to Miss Mary Mack-Mack-Mack – but also plenty of mischievous surprises. With over thirty rhymes to choose between, this is a perfect book to share.**

*These ideas will work for any storytime or rhymetime.*

*You can also adapt for socially distanced events and virtual events online!*



## BEFORE YOU START:

This book is perfect for toddlers who are just learning to talk but it's not "babyish" so older children and adults will love it too. Grown-ups might even know the rhymes from their own childhood! Aim to get them involved and participating as actively as possible. The more fun the adults are having, the more the kids will enjoy it. This is especially important when the children are under three.

A couple of practice sessions in advance and a bit of planning will really help you get the most from your session. You may find putting the book on a music stand is easier than holding it. Even better, an assistant or another adult could hold the book, turn the pages and show it around to the audience. This will leave your hands free for actions and help you keep eye contact. Be sure to allow plenty of time for the audience to enjoy the appealing and humorous details!

## READING THE RHYMES:

You will not have time to share all of the rhymes in the book at once so find which ones fall most comfortably off the tongue or choose your favourites - your enthusiasm will be contagious! You could also group rhymes by theme - for example you could do a storytime all about travel or food.

Practice using different tones, singing, whispering, shouting or different voices. This book is a great opportunity to use your silliest voices! Experiment with sound and see what feels good. Encourage the audience to join in with a line or two, and combine with actions. Here are some examples:





**“Once I saw a little bird**

**Come hop hop hop**

*(say in a high tweeting voice with your fingers hopping)*

**So I cried, ‘Little bird,**

**Will you stop, stop, stop?’**

**I was going to the window to say ‘how do you do’**

**But he shook his little tail and**

**away he fleewwwwwww!”**

*(say as if being blown away by the wind with your fingers flying)*

Pata-cake, jumping jacks or pointing in turn at participants are all easy ways to join in. The illustrations will give you a heads-up about which actions work best! Aim to keep all actions simple and obvious - stick with just a few per rhyme so it's easier to learn. Here are some possibilities:

**“Engine, engine, number nine**

*(steam train / piston movements)*

**Going down Chicago line**

*(repeat steam train / piston movements)*

**If the train goes off the track, (jump)**

**Do you want your money back?**

**yes, no, may be so!”**

*(nod, shake, shrug)*



Take your time and repeat several times to help everyone get into the swing of it!



### **MUSIC:**

Some of the rhymes in the book were originally sung but don't worry if you don't know the tunes. You can make up any basic repeating tune to the words. Keeping it super-simple will mean that even those who are not very musical can learn it and join in.

### **PROPS:**

Shakers or percussion are likely to be a popular addition to several of the rhymes! You could also get everyone sitting around a parachute, shaking it in time to the music or using it in creative ways.

This book is a treasure trove which will repay repeat visits. The rhymes and illustrations are spellbinding, appealing and so catchy – they just improve with repetition. As you get to know the book you will want to pull it out again and again as a resource to add to any storytime, as well as a standalone stalwart.



Watch a video of Michael Rosen as he reads from his new collection of nursery rhymes, *Honey For You, Honey for Me* on the WalkerYouTube channel [here](#).