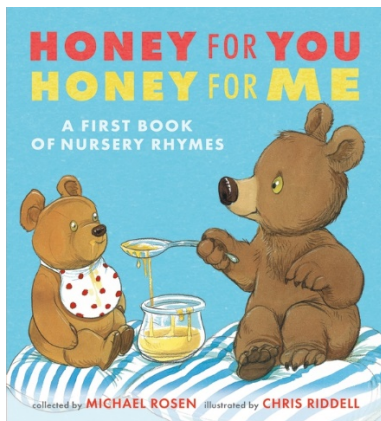


Nursery Rhyme Collections

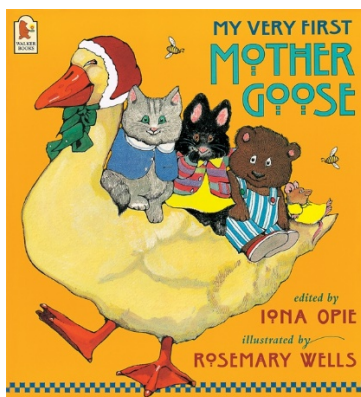
Rhyme and song play a vital role in the development of children's language and literacy and nursery rhymes provide a distinctive way of encouraging children to focus on the sounds, patterns and rhythms of language; a vital step in learning to read. Their memorability and humour also contribute to developing a love of language and reading for pleasure. Here are a dozen collections to explore.



***Honey for You, Honey for Me. A First Book of Nursery Rhymes* by Michael Rosen and Chris Riddell**

Walker 9781406374636

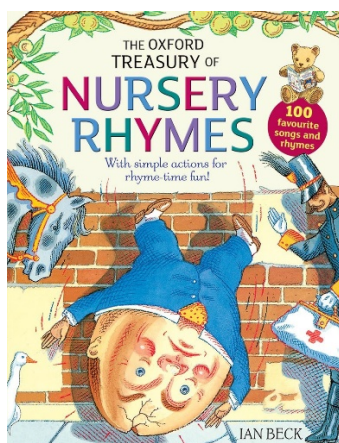
Following their collaboration on the collection of poems for young children *A Great Big Cuddle*, this companion volume by Michael Rosen and Chris Riddell includes some familiar rhymes and also many that are less well known, gathered from a variety of anthologies and inspired by the living language that can be heard in playgrounds. The rhymes are playful and full of humour, complemented by Chris Riddell's illustrations which often add another dimension. For example, in 'Baby and I were baked in a pie' the squeakers – sorry, speakers – are revealed to be mice and the baker a child in a chef's hat. In his introduction, Michael Rosen encourages readers 'to sing the words or make up actions, to show how sounds, rhythm and emotion can be conveyed through the whole body.'



***My Very First Mother Goose* by Iona Opie and Rosemary Wells**

Walker 9780744560275

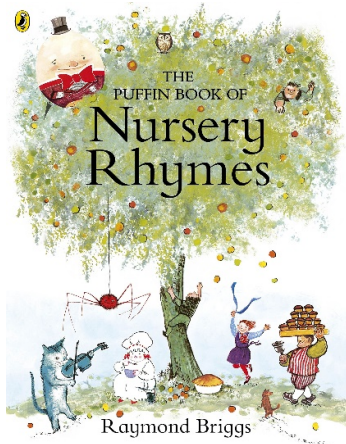
The rhymes in this collection were chosen by a foremost chronicler of the oral lore of children. The large pages and generously sized typeface make it perfect for sharing with small groups. What makes this book special is the sheer joy and exuberance of Rosemary Wells' illustrations, inhabited by friendly animals - especially rabbits. They incorporate fascinating detail and sometimes tell a different story from the rhyme. An excellent introduction to poetry.



***The Oxford Treasury of Nursery Rhymes* compiled by Karen King and Sarah Williams, illustrated by Ian Beck**

Oxford University Press 9780192738660

This collection is a candy-coloured cornucopia of nursery rhymes, compiled from four books originally published as separate volumes. Many of the rhymes have diagrams demonstrating the actions that go with them. A great basic book of traditional English rhymes.



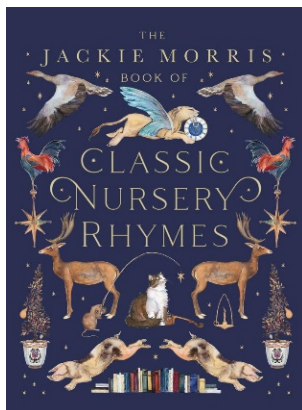
The Puffin Book of Nursery Rhymes illustrated by Raymond Briggs
Puffin 9780141370163

A revised edition of the classic *Mother Goose Treasury* that won the Kate Greenaway Medal in 1966 and is just as comical and fresh today. All the well-known rhymes are here as well as some less often recited. Raymond Briggs has described nursery rhymes as ‘rough, tough and earthy’ and his illustrations reflect their origins in the lives of ordinary working people.



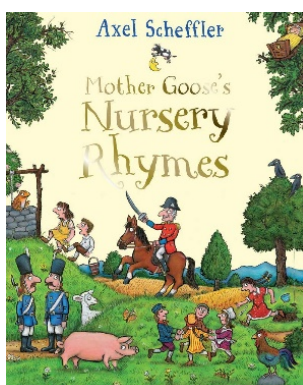
A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes and Poems illustrated by Frann Preston-Gannon
Nosy Crow 9781788008433

Each glorious spread in this volume depicts a scene which forms the environment for a combination of nursery rhymes and other verses on a similar theme. A night-time vista of London rooftops is the backdrop for ‘London Bridge’ and ‘Orange and Lemons’ and a small girl representing ‘Sally’ who went round the sun dances across them. A sailing ship sets out from a seaside village accompanying ‘Bobby Shaftoe’, ‘A Sailor Went to Sea’ and ‘My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean’. Sometimes settings are indoors – Mother Hubbard’s dog takes centre stage with a pleading look in his eye, although she is out of sight, alongside two more verses featuring dogs printed beyond his wagging tail.



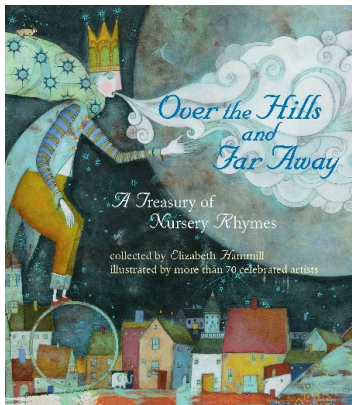
The Jackie Morris Book of Classic Nursery Rhymes
Otter-Barry Books 9781913074050

The characters, both human and animal, that inhabit the 40 rhymes that Jackie Morris has chosen to illustrate move across the landscapes that form a backdrop to them in beautiful watercolour paintings. The clothes in which people are attired suggest medieval times and yet have the timeless quality of fairy tales, while the animals are a combination of the real and the fantastic. Jackie Morris writes here about the creation of this book which was originally published as *The Cat and the Fiddle* <https://www.jackiemorris.co.uk/book/the-cat-and-the-fiddle/>



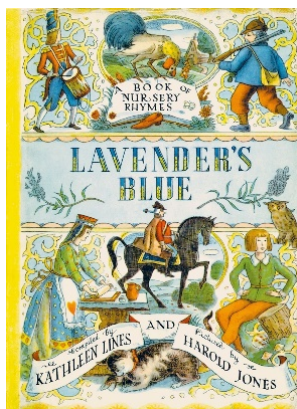
Mother Goose's Nursery Rhymes illustrated by Axel Scheffler
Macmillan 9781529031935

Axel Scheffler’s comic illustrations are well suited to the anarchic and nonsensical nature of nursery rhymes. There is a narrative thread running through this collection in which Alison Green tells the story of how Mother Goose recited these rhymes to her goslings. Selections of rhymes related to the section of the story are interspersed throughout. This conceit is carried through to the instructions with the action rhymes which, where appropriate, refer to goslings rather than babies!



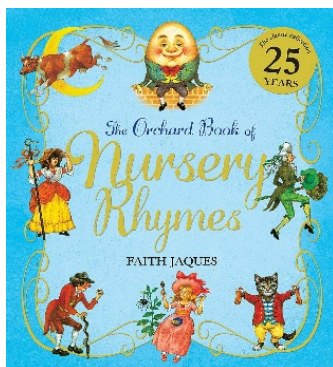
Over the Hills and Far Away compiled by Elizabeth Hammill
Candlewick Press 9780763677299

An exquisite collection of nursery rhymes from around the world illustrated by an international group of 77 artists. Familiar English rhymes are strongly featured and frequently paired or linked cross culturally. Each beautifully designed spread is host to a single rhyme or several related rhymes, such as four variants on Little Miss Muffet – English, Jamaican, American, Australian, each separately illustrated. However, most spreads showcase the work of a single illustrator with rhymes that suit their illustrative styles. Marcia Williams makes ‘Old Mother Hubbard’ into a comic strip. John Lawrence depicts old London town in woodcuts to illustrate ‘Oranges and Lemons’. Unfortunately, the UK edition is currently out of print but, this is such a special collection, the US edition is included here.



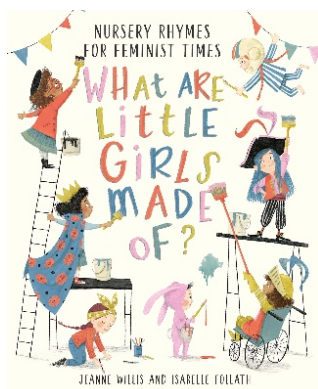
Lavender's Blue compiled by Kathleen Lines, illustrated by Harold Jones
Oxford University Press 9780192782250

A classic collection, first published in the 1950s, with alternate spreads illustrated in black and white and colour using a limited colour palette which Jacqueline Wilson described as giving ‘every picture a haunting dreamlike quality’ accompanied by ‘extraordinary detail [that] will keep a child poring over the pages for hours’. A description of actions to go with some of the rhymes and an index of first lines complete the book.



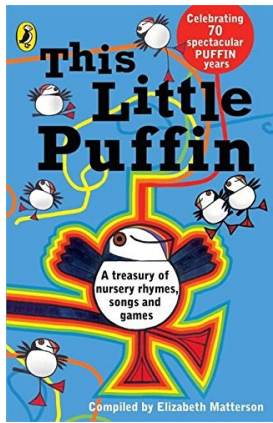
Orchard Book of Nursery Rhymes chosen by Zena Sutherland, illustrated by Faith Jaques
Orchard 9781408338629

Faith Jaques has created late eighteenth century settings for the illustrations in this collection and they are full of delightful details to pore over. There is a wealth of history to be discovered from the pictures, about how people from a variety of backgrounds lived, especially what they wore. Faith Jaques writes about the background to the illustrations in an appendix.



What Are Little Girls Made Of? by Jeanne Willis and Isabelle Folath
Nosy Crow 9781788004466

In these ‘Nursery Rhymes for Feminist Times’, Jeanne Willis takes well-known nursery rhymes and reframes them with good humour in ways that challenge stereotypes. This Little Miss Muffet doesn’t run away from the spider - ‘she stroked his sweet, long, furry legs’! Capable Jill sorts out Jack’s injuries and mends their scooter and a woman doctor puts Humpty Dumpty together again. As for Little Jade Horner – she’s shown peering through a telescope and sending her teddies into space. Isabelle Folath’s illustrations complement and extend the words in the rhymes and depict characters of a variety of ethnicities.



This Little Puffin. A Treasury of Rhymes, Songs and Games compiled by Elizabeth Matterson, illustrated by Claudio Muñoz
Puffin 9780140340488

A classic cornucopia of action rhymes, finger rhymes, nursery rhymes and songs, collected from all over Britain and reflecting a variety of cultures. The book has been revised and updated since its first publication in 1970.