



Welcome to the first issue of MOTHER GOOSE NEWS!!! I am thinking there are two groups of teacher recipients:

***Those who have forgotten what this is all about.

***Those who thought I would never get this out!

At the count of three: 1,2,3... everyone say FINALLY!!!

I hate flimsy excuses but here is why this has taken so long:

***I cannot format this page.

Fortunately, my husband and son are computer whizzes but sometimes have other urgent things to do...need I say more?

***My computer has been the recipient of 2 "crashes" and the original file I worked on (in August) got lost...are you with me???

Anyway, I hope to be able to send newsletters out every few months. These are being sent blind copy, so you needn't worry about your e-mail floating around for others to abuse.

My goal is to share ideas that you will be able to use RIGHT NOW, as you work with young children. Since you have heard me at a conference, you already know that my emphasis is on strengthening language abilities. Have fun and enjoy!!!

I hope you are beginning each day with a repetitive morning activity. A Kindergarten Teacher in California made up this simple song and I heartily recommend it. Use it every day to signal the beginning of your wonderful day:

**WE ARE ALL FRIENDS...
WE ARE ALL FRIENDS...
WE LIKE SCHOOL...
WE LIKE SCHOOL...
IT IS SUCH A PLEASURE,
TO LEARN AND PLAY
TOGETHER!**

**WE LIKE SCHOOL...
WE LIKE SCHOOL!
Tune: Are You Sleeping?**

After you sing the song... Ask these questions and more:

Which friend is wearing blue sox? Which friend has a pocket on today? Which friend has curly hair?

These questions stimulate auditory processing and visual discrimination. Even with toddlers, teachers can ask the questions and then answer them too, while pointing to the correct child.

A WORD ABOUT CIRCLE TIME...

EVERY child can enjoy circle time, if you are doing it correctly. Circle time IS about acting together as a group.

Circle time IS NOT about sitting the entire time and listening.

I recommend:

Toddlers/Twos- 5 minutes

Threes- 10 minutes

Fours- 15 minutes

Fives - 20 minutes or more

This is exactly like exercising, You start small and work your way up. Swap group movement activities, with sharing time, questions, stories and LOTS of songs and fingerplays. Here are some easy movement activities for your group:

CAN YOU CLAP YOUR HANDS LIKE ME?

THEN BEND OVER AND TOUCH YOUR KNEES...

NOW STAND UP STRAIGHT, AND COUNT TO EIGHT....

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8!

AND THEN WE'LL STOMP OUR FEET!

Tune: Hickory Dickory Dock!

WHERE IS YOUR ELBOW, ELBOW, ELBOW...WHERE IS YOUR ELBOW...SHOW ME NOW!

**WHERE ARE YOUR EARS, EARS, EARS, WHERE ARE YOUR EARS...SHOW ME NOW!
WHERE ARE YOUR KNEES, KNEES, KNEES, WHERE ARE YOUR KNEES...SHOW ME NOW!**

Add: Various other motions

Tune: Shortnin' Bread

Yes, your friends can sign up too on my web page!





Dressing up and make believe are lots of fun. I do hope you can celebrate Halloween but if you cannot, be sure to provide an alternative for children to exercise their creativity. Pretending to be someone else is always fun for children.

STAND UP STRAIGHT LIKE A SCARECROW...(arms out)
BE A SPIDER AND SPIN YOUR WEB...(roll hands over)
MEOW LIKE A CAT
 (hands like whiskers...meow)
BE AN OWL SAY HOO...HOO!
 (point fingers up like feathers on the top of your head)
NOW, PRETEND YOU'RE A GHOST...pause...
AND SCARE ME WITH A BOO!

THERE'S A PUMPKIN NOW AT MY HOUSE....
 (arms in a circle like a pumpkin)
WITH A CANDLE TUCKED INSIDE...(pointy finger up)
AND WHEN MY GRANDPA LIGHTS IT...
 (touch 2 pointy fingers and blow out pretend match)
THE FACE WILL GLOW SO BRIGHT...
 (blink eyes)
THERE ARE BLACK CATS ON MY WINDOWS...(whiskers)
AND A BOWL OF CANDY SWEET...(cup hands)
THAT WE'LL GIVE TO ALL THE CHILDREN...
 (pretend to pass out)
WHEN THEY COME TO TRICK OR TREAT!!!!

Here is another idea:

Animal Day...everyone dresses up as their favorite animal. This can easily be integrated into a fall harvest unit since we are usually talking about foods such as corn, apples and pumpkins.

THE COW IS IN THE BARN NOW! THE COW IS IN THE BARN NOW! THE COW IS IN THE BARN NOW...AND SHE SAYS: MOO, MOO, MOO!
THE SHEEP IS IN THE BARN NOW! THE SHEEP IS IN THE BARN NOW! THE SHEEP IS IN THE BARN NOW AND SHE SAYS: BAA, BAA, BAA!
THE DOG IS IN THE BARN NOW! THE DOG IS IN THE BARN NOW! THE DOG IS IN THE BARN NOW...AND HE SAYS: WOOF, WOOF WOOF.
THE FARMER'S IN THE BARN NOW! THE FARMER'S IN THE BARN NOW! THE FARMER'S IN THE BARN NOW AND HE SAYS: COME AND GET IT...IT'S TIME TO EAT!!!

Tune: Go round and round the village!

FYI...SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB IS OFFERING SOME FABULOUS SPECIALS RIGHT NOW! FOR AROUND \$15.00, YOU CAN GET 8 OR 10 NEW BOOKS FOR YOUR CLASSROOM. CALL: 1-800-SCHOLASTIC... I did!!!

I just wanted to take this time to tell you how honored I am to have "met" each of you! This past year has been absolutely incredible! I have enjoyed your smiles, jokes, stories and especially the e-mails where you have told me what you thought about my workshops...they have been very kind. Many of you have taken a moment to sign my guestbook and that is so wonderful because it helps me when conference chairs call and want to know if I have any references. Thanks so much!!!
FALL SPECIAL...

I have a new CD CELEBRATE FUN (August 2003) on my web page and also have converted all of the old cassettes into CD's...8 CD's total. This offer is only good on orders postmarked by 10/15/03 BUY 2 CD's...GET 1 FREE!
Yes, you will get 3 CD's for \$30 plus \$5 S/H per order. HOW CAN YOU DO THIS? Clip this offer out. Print out the order form off of my web page:

www.csag.com/fingerplays
 Staple this onto the order form and select your Cd's. **YOU MUST INCLUDE AN INDEX CARD WITH YOUR EXACT NAME AND ADDRESS...THIS WILL BE USED AS YOUR MAILING LABEL.** If you put your e-mail on the order form and I will let you know the shipping date.

