

Promoting Poetry

Adapt role-play areas to the theme of a poem. Older children can also have a go at acting out the story of the poem.

Audit the poetry you currently have in the setting. Does it reflect the children's interests? Are there sufficient opportunities planned to share poems regularly?

Share your poems. Take it in turns to read your favourite poem to the children.

Poetry should be shared throughout the year as part of a rich, varied reading curriculum. Find a poem/s that relates to your current theme and share regularly with the children.

Make up poem sacks for children to use. Just as you would make a story sack, see what related items you can find.

Compile a setting anthology of poems. Put together the staff's and children's favourites for sharing again and again.

Ideas to help promote poetry throughout the setting

Invite parents, carers or known members of the community to come into the setting and share their favourite poem with the children.

Learn a poem off by heart. Can you make up actions to go with the poem? Involve older children in making them up.

Have a go at writing poems. Remember there are no rules on how to write poems!

Paint a poem. Encourage children to illustrate a favourite or well known poem.

Once children are familiar with a range of poems, see if they can guess the poem you are about to share from clues you give.

Put a well known poem to music. What instruments and body sounds can be used to accompany the poem?

Enhance the provision throughout the setting to encourage retelling, discussion and exploration of the poem and its vocabulary. Share poems with babies whilst exploring related artefacts.