

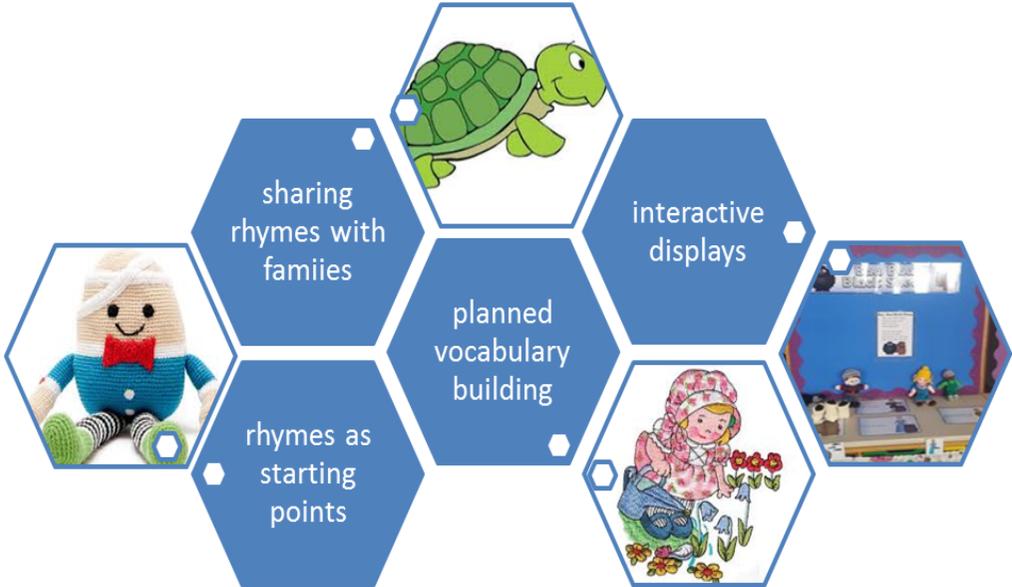
Each child at the pre-school has a book bag with a keyring attached and at the end of every week, they are given a picture card depicting the rhyme they have learnt, to add to their keyring.



Kipling Bear, who visits the children, has his very own rhyme keyring!



## Narrowing the Word Gap at Kipling Lions



### A 'key' focus on rhymes

Kipling Lions is a pre-school setting in Woodingdean, caring for children aged 2-5 years.

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The team at Kipling Lions were inspired to adopt the Rhyme of the week initiative which focuses on learning and exploring a well-known nursery rhyme each week. Parents are given a copy of the rhyme and are encouraged to read it at home. The staff were excited by the opportunity to look at the unfamiliar words that pop up in common rhymes and encourage a

playfulness with language - ultimately expanding and extending children's vocabulary.

Staff have carefully picked a mixture of modern and traditional rhymes, and where appropriate have planned rhymes to tie in with seasonal changes or events. For example, the children learnt 'Pop a little pancake into the pan' in the run up to Pancake Day. Their current rhyme is Mary Mary Quite Contrary - just in time for the growing season! The children have been busy growing cress and planting seeds whilst exploring different kinds of shells in the water tray.



To support this project, staff have created a table top display to accompany each nursery rhyme (see photo left) and a homemade Kipling Lions rhyme book. The book documents the rhymes learnt opposite a photo of the corresponding display. Julie says:

I've really enjoyed this initiative. It has empowered the staff team who have really taken ownership - putting lots of their own ideas into the planning!

The rhymes are explored through active group times which then lead into related activities - see counting activity below for 'Five Little Speckled Frogs' . As a result children have frequently been observed retelling the rhymes through their play.

Parents have also commented that their children are enjoying their new grasp of rhyme - one parent even posted a video on Tapestry of their child singing their favourite rhyme!

