



NCT Snuggery Series Play and Learn Activities

Bring the magic of Nashville Children's Theatre's (NCT) Mother Goose performance with you using these playful, hands-on activities for toddlers and preschoolers! Each one invites your little ones to giggle, wiggle, imagine, and explore.

Explore & Activate!

Get moving and spark imagination with these brain and body boosting activities.

Piggy, Kitten, MOTHER GOOSE!

This is a nursery rhyme-themed twist on "Duck, Duck, Goose." One person is Mother Goose and instead of calling out "Duck," they alternate with "Piggy," "Kitten," and "Mother Goose." When a child is tapped as "Piggy" they oink, and as a "Kitten" they meow. When someone is tapped as "Mother Goose," they race around the circle to try and get the previous "Mother Goose" before they find a seat in the circle. Once the round is over, the new "Mother Goose" can shout-out the name of their favorite nursery rhyme before the next round begins.

Animal Walks

There are lots of animals in Mother Goose nursery rhymes. Call out an animal, and have your little ones mimic how it moves. They can scurry like a mouse, snuffle like a pig, crawl like a spider, prance like a kitten, and more!

Sing & Dance!

Turn up the tunes and dance around with the classic nursery songs.

Finish the Lyrics - Nursery Rhyme Edition

Play (or sing!) a clip of a nursery rhyme and pause before it gets to the next line. The person who is up must sing the next phrase. If they don't know, then they can mime or charade what song they think it is, before continuing on to the next player. Example: "The itsy bitsy spider climbed up the water spout. [Now you go!]"

Old King Cole on Beat

Optional materials needed: tambourine, drum sticks, rhythm sticks, toy fiddles

Old King Cole is a classic nursery rhyme all about music! Use this rhyme to practice rhythm. Clap hands (or use rhythm sticks or a tambourine) on each stressed syllable (e.g., "OLD King COLE was a MER-ry old SOUL"). Practice miming a violin or use a toy fiddle during "tweedle dee" refrain.

Create a Masterpiece!

Unleash creativity with these easy and fun art projects.

Itsy Bitsy Spider Hand Puppet

Materials needed: black craft foam, 2 black and 1 red pipe cleaners, googly eyes, scissors, glue, sharpie, plastic lid

Place the lid rim-down on the craft foam and press down hard all the way around the edge. Use scissors to cut on the resulting circle. Do the same thing with the lid of the Sharpie to mark four small circles for finger holes. Cut them out with scissors. With the tip of your scissors, carefully poke two holes on both sides of the craft foam for the pipe cleaner legs. Feed the pipe cleaners through from the back (they should not need cut). Glue on the googly eyes. Fold the red pipe cleaner in half. Poke two more small holes in the craft foam, under the eyes, for the red pipe cleaner mouth and feed that through too. That's it! Now use your puppet to dance to *The Itsy Bitsy Spider*!

(Adapted from [LalyMom](#))



Hickory Dickory Rock Clock

Materials needed: garden rocks, metallic silver or gold sharpie, sticks, mouse toy

Gather dark colored rocks from outside or buy river rocks from your local craft store. Write the numbers 1-12 on the rocks using a metallic silver or gold Sharpie. Arrange the rocks in a circle (like an analog clock) and use two sticks to make the hour and minute hands. Now it is time to sing! Feel free to sing *Hickory Dickory Dock* all the way from 1-12, and from 5 o'clock onwards, make up your own rhyming words to fill in the blanks! Use the toy mouse (or one you make yourself) to run up to whatever number o'clock you are at in the song.

(Adapted from [DanyaBanya](#))



Enjoy a Yummy Snack!

Head to the market (just like in "This Little Piggy") for some learning fun!

Make Your Own Tea Sandwiches

Ingredients needed: Soft white or wheat bread, fillings of your choice (examples: PB&J or hard boiled egg, cucumber, and cream cheese, or Nutella and strawberries) and a cookie cutter.

Simply make sandwiches with your favorite fillings, and then use a round cookie cutter (or other fun shape!) to cut out your sandwiches into smaller pieces. Serve with a nice 'cuppa' tea or milk. Enjoy!

Hickory Dickory Cheese Mouse

Ingredients needed: spreadable cheese triangles (such as The Laughing Cow), round crackers, black sesame seeds, thin salami or pepperoni

Place a cheese spread triangle onto a cracker. To decorate, add two black sesame seeds for the eyes and one for the nose. Add two thin slices of salami or pepperoni to form the ears (or carrots to keep it meat-free). Serve and enjoy!

(Adapted from [Simple Seasonal](#))



(Adapted from [Manu's Menu](#))

Go Full STEAM!

Ignite the minds of your little budding scientists.

Rain Cloud in the Jar

Materials needed: A large jar, shaving cream, gel food coloring or watercolor, small cups of water, and pipettes or eye droppers

The Old Woman clears clouds from the sky using her broom, which is a perfect introduction to learn about the water cycle. In a small cup, mix the food coloring in the small cups of water and place a pipette or eye dropper in each vessel. Fill the large jar with water until it is about $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Spray a bunch of shaving cream in the jar until it is just above the top. Take a pipette of colored water and squirt it on top of the shaving cream cloud. Repeat this step one or two times and see the colored water begin to seep down through the shaving cream and into the water below. Just like rain! For more information on this experiment, and recording worksheets, visit [FunLearningforKids.com](#).

Humpty Dumpty Challenge

*Materials needed: raw or hard-boiled eggs and materials for cushioning: **soft** - cotton balls, marshmallows, sponges; **air-filled** - bubble wrap, plastic baggies filled with air, balloons; **natural** - leaves, grass, sand, dirt*

Gravity is a force that pulls the egg toward the ground, increasing its speed as it falls. When the egg hits a hard floor, all that energy is transferred into the shell, causing it to crack. To save Humpty, you need to find a way to absorb that energy or slow the fall. Set out a variety of materials and ask your child to predict which one will protect an egg the best. Place your egg inside a small container or baggie along with the chosen protective material. Drop it from the top of stairs or off a porch. Record and analyze the results. Visit [ImTheChefToo](#) website for more.

Read and Write

Build early literacy skills and promote a love of reading.

Create Your Own Nursery Rhyme

Materials needed: paper, pencil, and your imagination!

Nursery rhymes are usually very short, just 4-8 lines long, and they almost always tell a story. Grab your paper and pencil and try writing your own! Check out this link at [Poetry4Kidz](#) for tips and tricks on how to get started.

Read the Mother Goose Collection

In the show, Mother Goose, 8 classic nursery rhymes are highlighted. Read each one to prepare seeing it come to life in our page-to-stage performance! Titles referenced: *Old King Cole*, *The Itsy Bitsy Spider*, *Hickory Dickory Dock*, *Humpty Dumpty*, *There Was an Old Woman Tossed Up in a Basket*, *This Little Piggy*, *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, and *The Three Little Kittens*. Fun Fact: Many of the most famous nursery rhymes are over 200 years old!



SHARE WITH US!

We would love to see the fun you and your NCT fans are up to! Take a picture of you doing any of these activities, using #NCTSnuggery and tag Nashville Children's Theatre!

Facebook and Instagram: @nashvillechildrenstheatre