

Mother Goose
has a Birthday Party





OVERVIEW

This musical journey introduces children to the whimsical world of Mother Goose. Teachers and children will love how these enduring stories and nursery rhymes bring characters such as Humpty Dumpty, Jack and Jill, Little Bo-Peep and others to life, and allow children to use their imaginations as they act out silly and sentimental songs. Each song and nursery rhyme becomes more meaningful each and every time a child hears it and actively participates in the stories.

The script contains a number of songs that have a common form. Each song is labeled according to whether it should be included (standard) or may be included (optional).

Each song is divided into three sections: introductory “lines,” a song, and accompanying movement. The lines may be spoken by individual children, pairs of children in unison, or an adult narrator. For very young children, the number of lines should be reduced, spoken by an adult narrator, or omitted altogether.

You should examine the script carefully in light of the needs and abilities of your particular group, and adapt it to capitalize on the talents and strengths of your students. Choose the most outspoken and confident children in your group to be Mr. Rhythm (male or female). Mr. Rhythm can be played by different children throughout the program or can be the teacher. Children who are not comfortable participating may be paired with others, or permitted to “watch” as part of the audience.

We realize that all performance spaces are different, so you will see “original formation” used in the directions. This is the formation of the children that works best for your space, i.e. a line, or an arc, etc. All props that are used in this should be readily available on the side of the “performance area” for children to pick up and distribute as needed in each song.

And now, welcome to Mother Goose’s Birthday Party!



This program is to be taught over a period of days or weeks. The time you spend each day is up to the teacher and the time required to teach the program to the children will vary based upon the skill and age level of the group. As the songs are easy to learn, the amount of time necessary to prepare is based on how detailed you make the final performance. The total estimated performance time is 35 minutes, including transitions between songs. Music with the children's voices should be used for all rehearsals. During the performance, the songs with the children's voices singing in the background may or may not be used, depending upon the confidence of your group. The vocal tracks were specifically created not to overpower the true stars, your students.

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SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION (Optional)

(The children enter from the sides of the performance area. They discover a large scroll in the middle of the performance area, which was set before the performance begins.)

Child: What is that?

Child: Open it up!

Child: It says: “You are all invited to Mother Goose’s birthday party today.”

Children: Hooray!

Child: Let’s wish for Mr. Rhythm to take us to the birthday party.

ALL: **To share some fun,
To sing some songs,
To visit someplace new;
Please, Mr. Rhythm, take us
On a Musical Journey with you!**

(**Suggested Action:** The children all close their eyes, stand or sit in place and chant the above in unison. Mr. Rhythm is waiting on either side of the performance area.)



MEET MR. RHYTHM'S MOTHER GOOSE

(Standard)

(Start Track #1 (Vocals) "The Knock Sound Effect" (optional))
(Start Track #25 (Instrumental) "The Knock Sound Effect" (optional))

(A knock on the door is heard. Mr. Rhythm happily enters from the side, wearing his red coat and hat, and carrying a marching baton (outfit optional). He waves to the children and the audience.)

Mr. Rhythm: Hi everybody!

ALL: Hi Mr. Rhythm!

(Start Track #2 (Vocal) "Meet Mr. Rhythm's Mother Goose")
(Start Track #26 (Instrumental) "Meet Mr. Rhythm's Mother Goose")

**Meet Mr. Rhythm,
He's as happy as can be,
He wants to go with you and me.
Put on your smile,
And take his hand,
We'll go with Mr. Rhythm to Mother Goose land.**

(**Suggested action:** Mr. Rhythm enters from the side of the performance area upon the knock. During the first part of the song, Mr. Rhythm begins shaking hands with the other children and waves. The other children wave back to Mr. Rhythm. During the repeat, on the first two lines of the song, the children gesture to Mr. Rhythm with outstretched hands. Mr. Rhythm and the children point to the audience on "with you" and to themselves on "me." They give big smiles to the audience on "Put on your smile." The children circle Mr. Rhythm during "We're on our way, We'll go with Mr. Rhythm to Mother Goose land." and during the repeat of those two rhymed lines.) The children spread out in an arc after the song is over.