

A-Rhyme-A-Week: Classroom Instruction

Rain, Rain Go Away

Monday

1. Introduce "Rain, Rain, Go Away" poster and vocabulary to children. Ask the children what the boy in the picture is doing, and ask them about the things he is holding. Tell children that the boy is named Johnny, and that he wants to play with his toys, but can't because of the rain. Ask if the children have ever wished for something annoying to go "far away", then explain that Spain is a country very far away from Johnny.
2. Read the poster to the children. **Be sure to run your fingers under the words as you read them.** Then, sing the "Rain, Rain, Go Away" song, running your fingers under the words as you sing. Work with the children to teach them the song, singing and encouraging the children to join in.
3. Show the children how to chant the nursery rhyme as well as sing it.

Tuesday

1. Begin by putting the poster back on the blackboard. Ask children if they can remember why Johnny couldn't play with his toys.
2. Tell the children that today is "acting" day. Each time the nursery rhyme is chanted, 3 children will be needed to be the "rain". They are to walk around the child who is "Johnny" using their fingers to be the "rain" just like we use them to make rain for the Eency Weency Spider. When the class chants, "Rain, rain, go to Spain", the "rain" children return to their seats, and Johnny is left to smile up at the sun.
3. Vary singing with chanting. "Rain, Rain, Go Away" is a good nursery rhyme for children to begin chanting softly then increasing in volume.
4. Finish the lesson by saying all but the last word of a line and letting the children as a group fill in the missing word:
Rain, rain, go _____.
Come again another _____.
Little Johnny wants to _____.
Rain, rain, go to _____.
Never show your face _____.

Wednesday

1. Begin by putting the poster back on the blackboard, running your fingers under the words as you chant the rhyme. Then, have the children sing "Rain, Rain, Go Away". Repeat the last activity from Tuesday, having children fill in the missing word. Then tell children that **away**, **play**, and **day** all rhyme, and we are going to learn some other words that rhyme. Introduce these pictures from the picture card set: **bray**, **clay**, **day**, **hay**, **lay**, **pay**, **pray**, **play**, and **spray**. Be sure to explain to the children what the word and picture mean. Take the time to talk about the pictures, relating them to what your children have seen and know. Always remember, **if there is a picture that you feel is unsuitable for your particular classroom**, you can eliminate this picture from the set.
2. Many of these words can be pantomimed or acted out. For instance, you can ask children to "bray" like a donkey or to "pay" for something they've bought. You can also ask them about where it is okay to "spray" paint.
3. Finish the lesson by singing and chanting "Rain, Rain, Go Away". If you'd like, have a small group do the acting out like on Tuesday.

Thursday

1. Select 5 or 6 of the downloadable riddle cards that you think are best suited for your students.
2. Begin by putting the poster back on the blackboard. Ask children if they can sing or chant the rhyme, allowing 2 or 3 at a time to chant or sing the rhyme for the class.
3. Set the pictures from the picture card set on the chalk tray. Tell the children that today we will be guessing the answers to some riddles. The answer to the riddle will be one of the pictures we looked at yesterday.
4. Put the riddle cards on the board one at a time. Read the riddle, then help your students decide which picture best answers the riddle. Tape the picture at the bottom of the riddle card. You read the riddle, letting the children fill in the missing word, completing the rhyme by saying the name of the picture.
5. Finish the lesson as you did on Tuesday, having the children supply the missing word at the end of each line of the rhyme.

Friday

1. Put the "Rain, Rain, Go Away" and "Jack and Jill" posters on the board. Remind the children of the various activities you've done this week, and tell them that this is **Children's Choice** day. Let them decide the order for the following: acting out, singing, chanting, and riddle rhymes.
2. Write order of activities the children have selected on the board; follow that order.
3. Finish by singing and chanting "Rain, Rain, Go Away." Friday is a good day to Give each child a hole-punched copy of "Rain, Rain, Go Away" to put their **My Very Own Nursery Rhyme Collection** folders at home.