

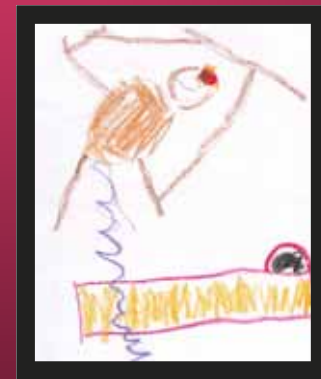


2008

# A Year of Rhymes and Riddles

Understanding the Early Years (UEY)

Cumberland County, NS



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For further information, visit [www.hrsdc.gc.ca](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca).



## A Year of Rhymes and Riddles

Children love rhymes and riddles. They enjoy silly songs, corny jokes, and non-sense poems. Playing with language in this way helps children to be 'aware of words'. Children who are 'aware of words' listen more closely. They know that:

- words are made up of sounds;
- these sounds can be changed;
- changing one sound makes a different word with a different meaning.

When children are aware of the sounds in words, they learn to read more easily. This awareness helps them to understand that:

- written words are spoken words in printed form;
- the letters of written words represent sounds;
- changing a letter in a word changes its sound and its meaning.

English has a small set of spelling patterns that are repeated to make many words. New words are made by adding different beginning sounds, such as in:

<i>at</i>	<i>it</i>	<i>all</i>	<i>oat</i>	<i>ill</i>	<i>ight</i>	<i>and</i>
cat	bit	ball	boat	bill	night	band
hat	sit	tall	goat	hill	right	hand
mat	fit	wall	coat	will	tight	sand.

When children play with rhymes and riddles, they come to understand these patterns, and can more easily read new words with the same patterns.

This calendar has rhymes, riddles and jokes for every month of the year. Parents and caregivers can do many activities to have fun with language while at the same time helping children to be aware of words and sounds.

## Activities



Read, chant, and sing rhymes, riddles, poems, and songs out loud.



Tell simple jokes that call attention to the sounds and words of language. Find or make up new jokes on a similar theme.



Say part of a nursery rhyme, riddle, or poem. Ask your child to listen closely, be like an echo, and say the same part.



Add finger play or body movements for rhymes such as "*Eensy Weensy Spider*" and "*Round and Round the Garden*".



Say part of a familiar rhyme and ask your child to finish it.



Ask your child to: clap the words, tell which words sound alike, change the first sound in the rhyming word to make another word.



Say a familiar rhyme or riddle and put in a non-rhyming word. Let your child notice and point out the mistake. For example, change, "*Dig in the ground and see me squirm. I'm long and wiggly. I'm a worm*" to "*Dig in the ground and see me hide*".



Identify one word as the 'magic word' – say the rhyme or riddle and have your child clap when the magic word is spoken.



Ask your child to draw a picture of their favourite rhyme or riddle.



Play rhyming games. For example, say: "*I am looking at something that rhymes with **cat**.*" Your child looks around to find the object, and then says the name, such as **bat**, or **hat**, or **mat**.



Once your child knows 6 rhymes or riddles, make a 'cube' game. Paste pictures on a small box – 1 picture for each rhyme or riddle. Ask your child to pick a picture on the cube, and then tell the rhyme or riddle.



Use known rhymes to make new rhymes. For example, *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed* could be changed to *Five Little Monkeys sitting in the Tree – One jumped down and bumped his \_\_\_\_ (knee)*.

Talk together. Read together. Tell each other riddles, rhymes and jokes.

Share. Enjoy. Have fun!

**Rhyme**

Star Light, Star Bright.  
First star I see tonight  
I wish I may, I wish I might,  
Have the wish I wish tonight.

**Rhyming Riddle**

I shine outside when  
you're having fun.  
I'm up in the sky,  
and I'm called the \_\_\_\_ (sun).

**Joke**

What colour is a burp?  
Burple.



Drawing by Riley, Age 5.



# January 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Notes	

## Rhyme

Five little monkeys,  
Jumping on the bed,  
One fell off  
and bumped his head.  
Mama called the doc-  
tor, and the doctor  
said,  
"No more monkeys  
jumping on the bed".

## Rhyming Riddle

I'm smaller than a  
horse, bigger than a  
frog.  
I jump and I bark.  
I'm a \_\_\_\_ (dog).

## Joke

What kind of gum do  
bees chew?  
Bumble gum.



Drawing by Seth, Age 5.



# February 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

## Rhyme

If your clothes have any red,  
put your finger on your  
head.

If your clothes have any  
blue, put your finger on  
your shoe.

If your clothes have any  
black, put your hands be-  
hind your back.

If your clothes have any  
white,  
stamp your feet with all  
your might.

## Rhyming Riddle

Dig in the ground,  
and see me squirm.  
I'm long and wiggly,  
I'm a \_\_\_\_\_ (worm).

## Joke

What colour is a happy cat?  
Purr-ple.

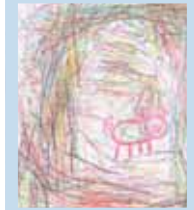


Drawing by Aurora, Age 4.





# March 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	<i>Notes</i>				

## Rhyme

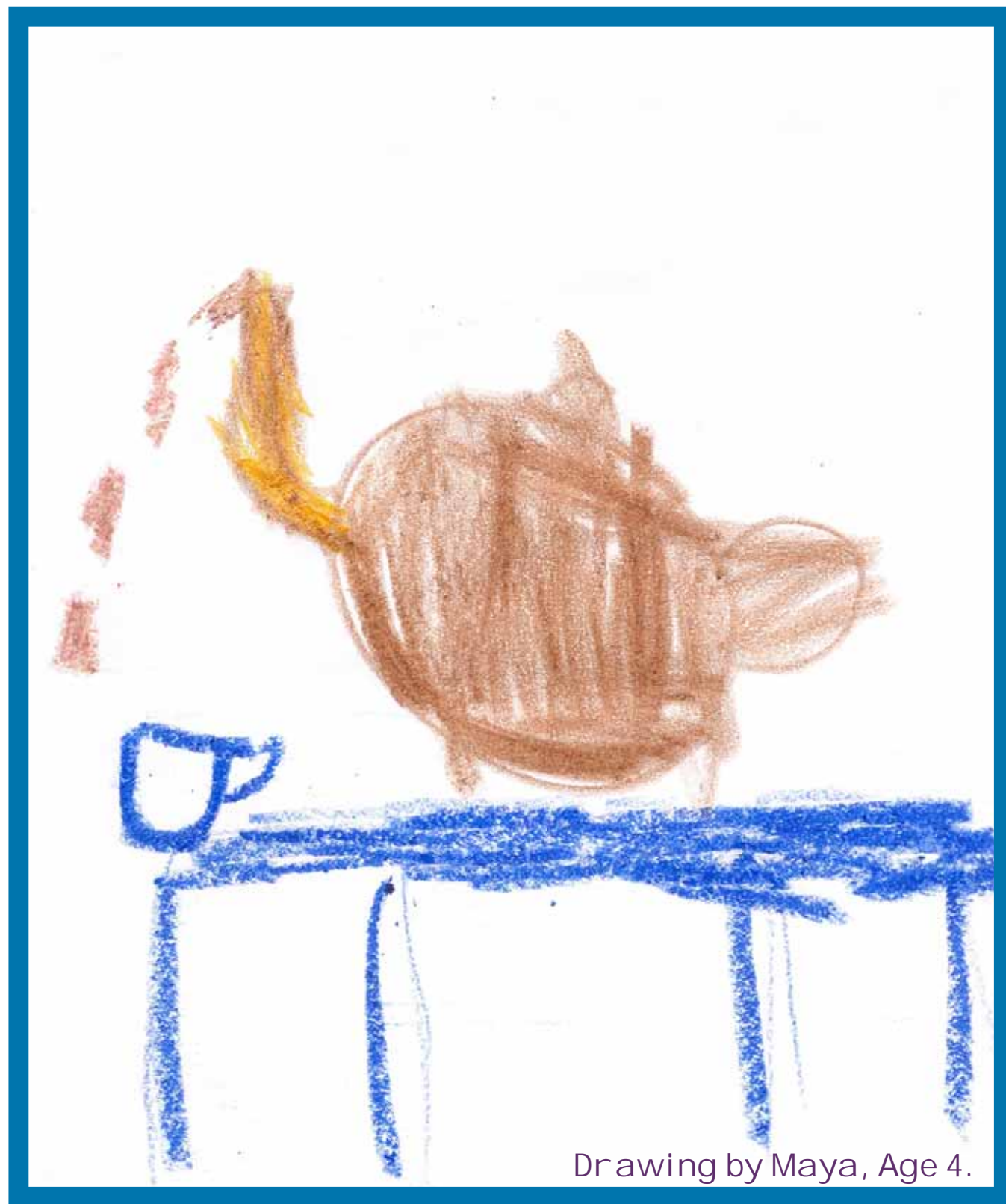
I'm a little teapot,  
short and stout,  
Here is my handle,  
here is my spout.  
When I get all steamed  
up, then I shout: "Just  
tip me over, and pour me  
out."

## Rhyming Riddle

Open me up and take a  
look.  
I'm chock full of stories.  
I'm a \_\_\_\_ (book).

## Joke

What did the teddy bear  
say when he was offered  
dessert?  
"No thanks, I'm stuffed."



Drawing by Maya, Age 4.



# April 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>April Fool's Day</i>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	<i>Notes</i>		

## Rhyme

This little piggy went to market,  
this little piggy stayed home.

This little piggy had roast beef.  
This little piggy had none.  
And this little piggy cried:  
"WEE, WEE, WEE!" all the way home.

## Rhyming Riddle

There are 10 of me,  
5 in each row.  
I'm on your feet.  
I'm a \_\_\_\_\_ (toe).

## Joke

What cereal do cats like best?  
Mice Crispies.



Drawing by Cassie, Age 5.



# May 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 <i>Mother's Day</i>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 <i>Victoria Day</i>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Rhyme

Round and round  
the garden,  
Goes the teddy bear,  
One step, two step,  
Tickle 'em under there.

## Rhyming Riddle

I'm small and green  
and sit on a log.  
"Ribbet, Ribbet."  
I'm a \_\_\_\_\_ (frog).

## Joke

How do you catch a  
squirrel?  
Climb up a tree and  
act like a nut.



Drawing by Riley, Age 5



# June 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15 <i>Father's Day</i>	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	<i>Notes</i>					

## Rhyme

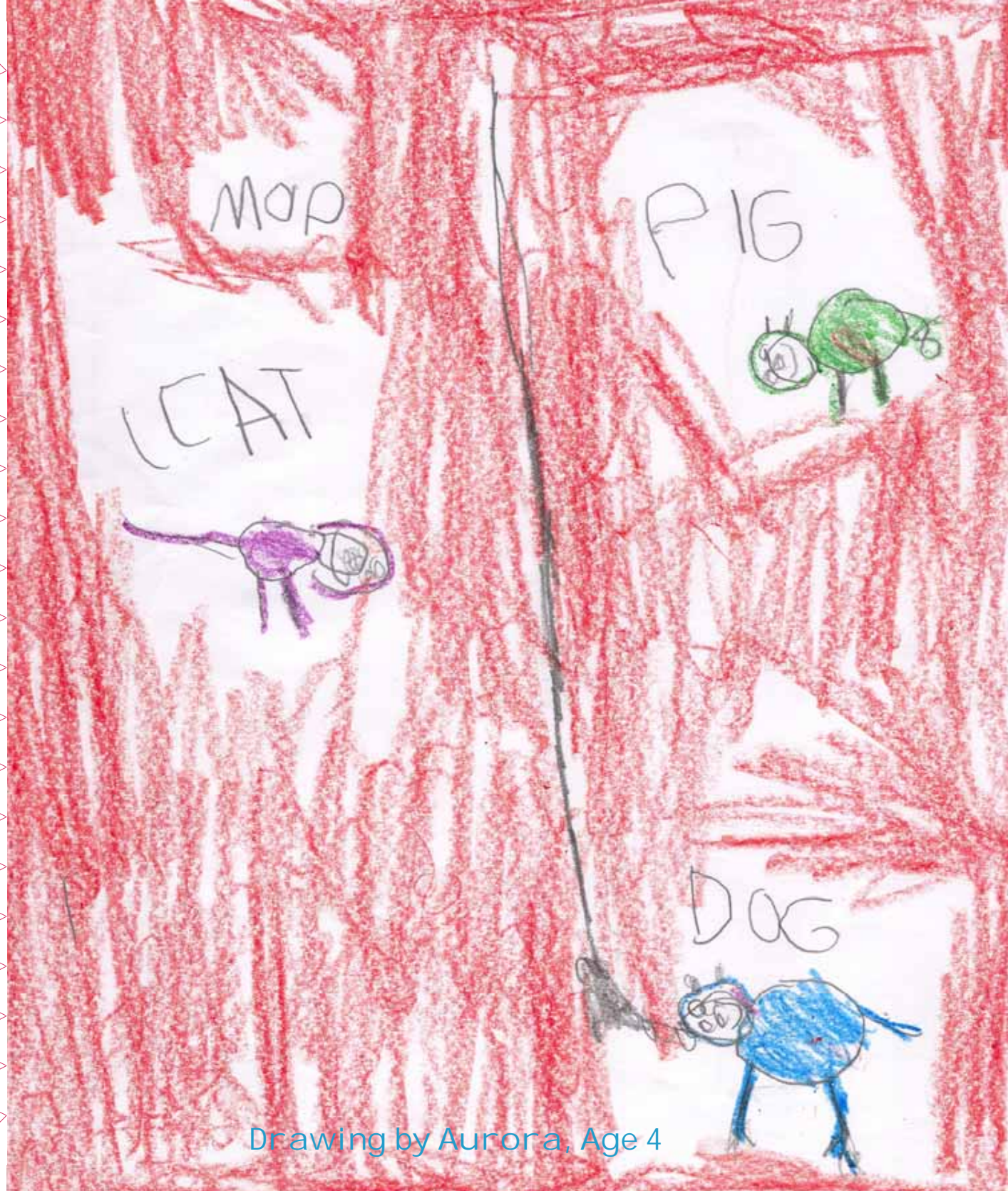
Higglety pigglety pop,  
The dog has eaten the mop.  
The pig's in a hurry,  
The cat's in a flurry,  
Higglety, pigglety, pop!

## Rhyming Riddle

You stand on me  
and walk down the street.  
There are 2 of me,  
I'm your \_\_\_\_ (feet).

## Joke

What does a duck eat with  
his soup?  
Quackers.



Drawing by Aurora, Age 4





# July 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>Canada Day</i>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	<i>Notes</i>	

## Rhyme

Hickory, dickory dock.  
The mouse ran up the  
clock.  
The clock struck one,  
the mouse ran down,  
Hickory, dickory, dock.

## Ryhming Riddle

I go faster than a train.  
I fly in the sky.  
I'm a \_\_\_\_\_ (plane).

## Joke

How can you tell which  
end of a worm is the  
head?  
Tickle it in the middle  
and see which end  
**laughs.**



Drawing by Daniel , Age 5.



# August 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Notes					

## Rhyme

The eensy weensy spider  
went up the water spout,  
Down came the rain and  
washed the spider out.  
Out came the sun and  
dried up all the rain.  
So the eensy weensy spi-  
der went up the spout  
again.

## Rhyming Riddle

I sing pretty songs but  
don't say a word.  
I have wings and feath-  
ers.  
I'm a \_\_\_\_\_ (bird).

## Joke

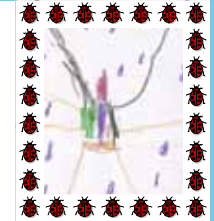
Why did the jelly bean go  
to school?  
To become a smartie.



Drawing by Seth, Age 5



# September 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Labour Day</i>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	<i>Notes</i>			



## Rhyme

Open, shut them.  
Open, shut them.  
Give your hands a  
clap. Open, shut them.  
Open, shut them.  
Lay them in your lap.  
Creep them, Creep  
them,  
right up to your chin.  
Open wide your little  
mouth,  
but do not let them in.

## Rhyming Riddle

Listen closely and hear  
me well.

I ring and chime.  
I'm a \_\_\_\_\_ (bell).

## Joke

How does a chicken  
mail a letter?  
In a hen-velope.



Drawing by Alexis, Age 5



# October 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 <i>Halloween</i>	

## Rhyme

Teddy bear, teddy bear,  
turn around.

Teddy bear, teddy bear,  
touch the ground.

Teddy bear, teddy bear,  
reach up high.

Teddy bear, teddy bear,  
touch the sky.

Teddy bear, teddy bear,  
climb in bed.

Teddy bear, teddy bear,  
sleepy head.

Teddy bear, teddy bear,  
turn out the light.

Teddy bear, teddy bear, say  
"good night".

## Rhyming Riddle

I'm on your head to help you  
hear. There are 2 of me. I'm  
an \_\_\_\_\_ (ear).

## Joke

What kind of keys do kids  
like best? Coo-kies.



Drawing by Cassie, Age 5





# November 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 <i>Remembrance Day</i>	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	Notes					

## Rhyme

Twinkle, twinkle little star!  
How I wonder what you  
are.

Up above the world so  
high,  
like a diamond in the sky.  
Twinkle, twinkle little star!  
How I wonder what you  
are.

## Rhyming Riddle

I have sharp claws  
and a head to pat.  
"Meow, Meow."  
I'm a \_\_\_\_\_ (cat).

## Joke

Why did the banana go to  
the doctor?  
Because it was not peeling  
well.



Drawing by Aurora, Age 4



# December 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27
28	29	30	31	Notes		

All drawings in this calendar were done by children participating in summer (2007) programs at Maggie's Place Family Resource Centre, Amherst, Nova Scotia.

*"A Year of Rhymes and Riddles" was developed by Joan Beswick and Carol Oram, coordinators of the Cumberland Understanding the Early Years initiative ([www.cumberlanduey.ca](http://www.cumberlanduey.ca)).*