

Circle Time Lessons & Centers

Unit
overview

Day 1 Jack Be Nimble

Introduce the nursery rhyme:

Jack Be Nimble

Recite the nursery rhyme. Take turns jumping over a candlestick.

Day 2 Rhyming

Recite the nursery rhyme and replace the word "candlestick" with different silly phrases.

Day 3 Listening Practice

Recite the nursery rhyme and use different position words to act out the rhyme.

Day 4 Concept Sort

Sort the pictures into 2 groups: things that are quick and things that are slow.

Center Print Concept

Practice concept of word in this file folder game.

Bonus Take Home Mini Book

Foldable emergent reader book.

Jack Be Nimble
Nursery Rhyme

Day 1
Lesson Plans


A nursery rhyme is a traditional rhyming poem or song. Teaching nursery rhymes helps young children to develop auditory skills and helps with speech development.

Objective:

- The students will develop listening and speaking skills by reciting a poem.

Activities:

- Read the poem to the students and invite the children to join you in reading it again.
- Bring in a candlestick or pretend a block or other small object is a candlestick. Call the students' names one at a time and invite them to jump over it. Replace "Jack" with the student's name.
- Print the name practice page for each child. Have them write their name on the lines, then practice reading the poem with their own names on the page or invite students to draw a picture of Jack.



Jack Be Nimble
Listening Practice & Action Words

Day 3
Lesson Plans


Practicing active listening develops comprehension and problem-solving skills. Incorporate these with a fun movement activity.

Objective:

- The students will develop listening skills by listening with increasing attention to directions.

Activities:

- Copy one candlestick picture for each child. Either print them with colored ink, or print the ink on top of colored paper.
- Students place their candlestick on the ground. The teacher reads one of the direction rhymes. Students perform the action on each card.



Jack Be Nimble
Print Concept File Folder Game

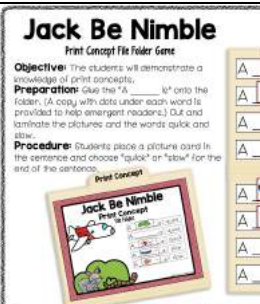
Literacy
Center

Objective: The students will demonstrate a knowledge of print concepts.

Preparation: Glue the "A" onto the folder. (A copy with dots under each word is provided to help emergent readers.) Cut and laminate the pictures and the words quick and slow.

Procedure: Students place a picture card in the sentence and choose "quick" or "slow" for the end of the sentence.

A	quick.
A	quick.
A	quick.
A	quick.
A	quick.
A	quick.
A	quick.
A	quick.
A	quick.
A	quick.



Jack Be Nimble
Silly Rhymes - Word Replacement

Day 2
Lesson Plans


Being able to manipulate a memorized poem (like nursery rhymes) and replace words and phrases with new ones is an important phonological awareness skill.

Objective:

- The students will develop listening skills and phonological awareness by replacing the word "candlestick" with another 3-syllable -lck phrase when they recite a rhyme.

Activity:

- Copy the picture words. Mat and laminate as desired.
- Students choose a picture and try to recite the nursery rhyme with the silly picture instead of candlestick(s).



Jack Be Nimble
Concept Sort

Day 4
Lesson Plans


Classifying and sorting activities help children to develop a range of thinking skills and build the foundations for problem-solving.

Objective:

- The students will sort pictures into 2 groups.


Activities:

- Students pick up a picture and explain if the object moves quickly or slowly. They then place it on the sorting mat.
- Pick a picture card and ask the students to move their bodies quickly or slowly like the item in the picture.



Take-Home Mini Book
Foldable Emergent Readers

- Print a poem for each child.
- Fold the page into fourths - landscape first, then portrait. (You might glue the page together for younger children.)
- Invite students to point to the words and recite the memorized poem.



Jack Be Nimble

Nursery Rhyme

Day 1
Lesson
Plans

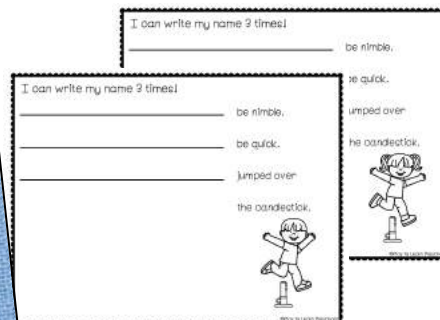
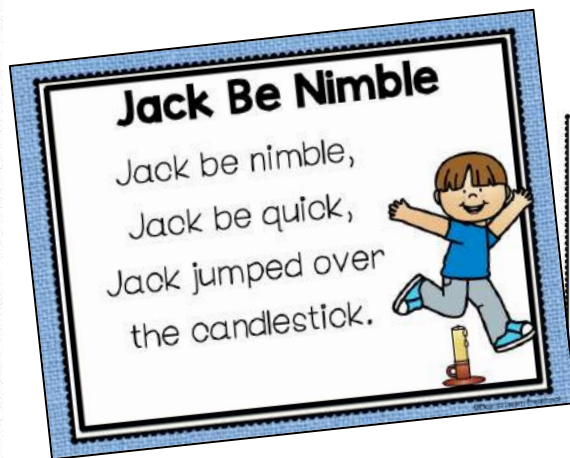
A nursery rhyme is a traditional rhyming poem or song. Teaching nursery rhymes helps young children to develop auditory skills and helps with speech development.

Objective:

- The students will develop listening and speaking skills by reciting a poem.

Activities:

- Read the poem to the students and invite the children to join you in reading it again.
- Bring in a candlestick or pretend a block or other small object is a candlestick. Call the students' names one at a time and invite them to jump over it. Replace "Jack" with each student's name.
- Print the name practice page for each child. Have them write their name three times on the blanks, then practice reading the poem with their own name. Take a photo to attach to the page or invite students to draw a picture of themselves jumping.



_____ be nimble
_____ be quick!
_____ jumped over
the candlestick!

Jack Be Nimble

Silly Rhymes – Word Replacement

Day 2
lesson
plans

Being able to manipulate a memorized poem (like nursery rhymes) and replace words and phrases with new ones is an important phonological awareness skill.

Objective:

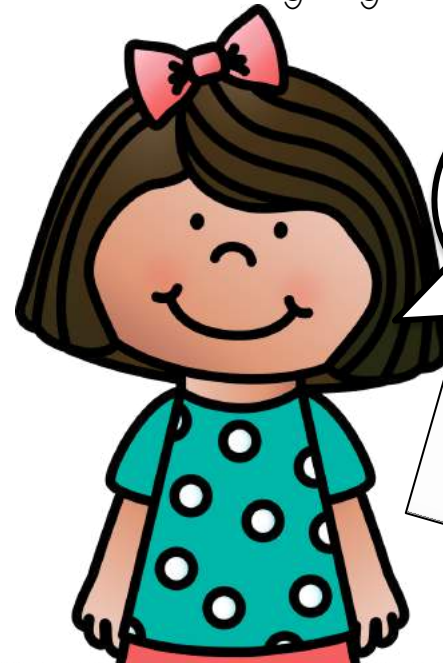
- The students will develop listening skills and phonological awareness by replacing the word “candlestick” with another 3-syllable –ick phrase when they recite a rhyme.

Activity:

1. Copy the picture words. Mat and laminate as desired.
2. Students choose a picture and try to recite the nursery rhyme with the silly picture (instead of candlestick).

Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **jump**. Make your non-dominant hand flat. With your dominant hand use your index and middle finger to “stand” on your open hand. Jump the fingers up and down.



Jack be nimble.
Jack be quick.
Jack jumped over the



Jack Be Nimble

Listening Practice & Position Words

Day 3
Lesson
Plans

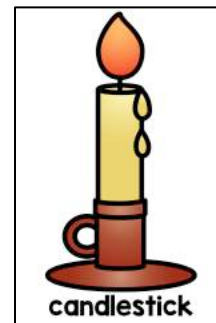
Practicing active listening develops communication and problem-solving skills. Incorporate these with a fun movement activity.

Objective:

- The students will develop listening skills by listening with increasing attention to directions.

Activities:

- Copy one candlestick picture for each child. Either print them with colored ink, or print the B&W copies onto colored paper.
- Students place their candlestick on the ground. The teacher reads one of the direction rhymes. Students perform the action on each card.



Jack Be Nimble

Concept Sort

Day 4
lesson
plans

Classifying and sorting activities help children to develop a range of thinking skills and build the foundations for problem-solving.

Objective:

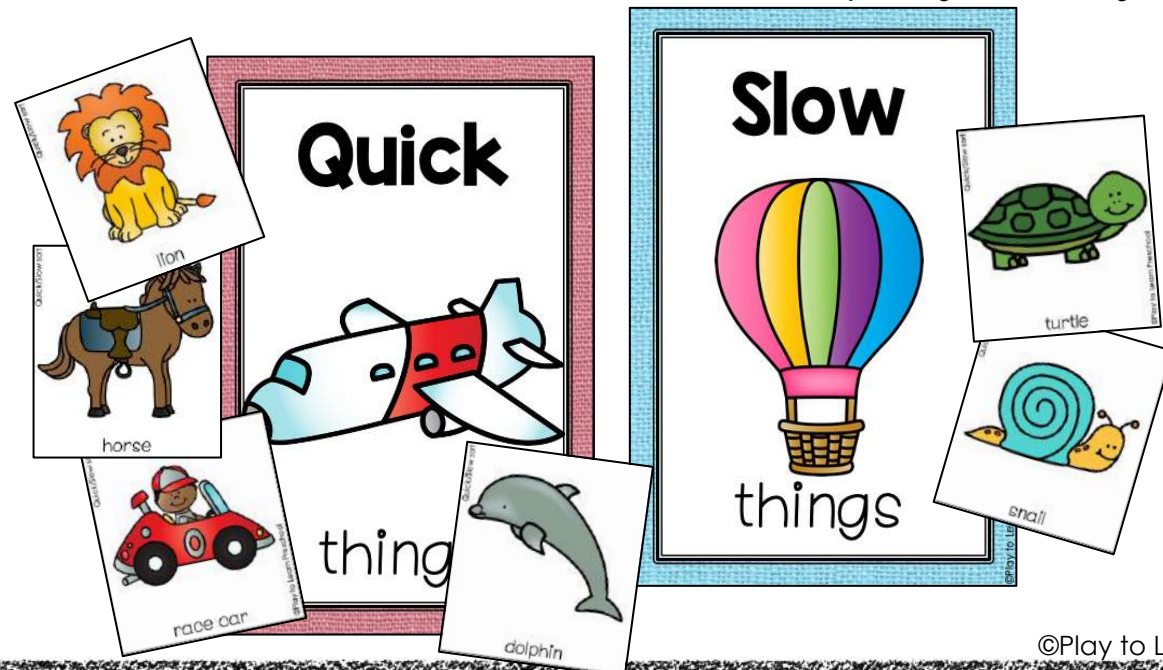
- The students will sort pictures into 2 groups.

Activities:

1. Students pick up a picture and explain if the object moves quickly or slowly. They then place it on the sorting mat.
2. Pick a picture card and ask the students to move their bodies quickly or slowly like the item in the picture.

Extension Idea:

Set up a simple obstacle course using chairs, pillows, yarn or tape. Have students move their bodies quickly and nimbly just like Jack.



Jack Be Nimble

Print Concept File Folder Game

Objective: The students will demonstrate a knowledge of print concepts.


Preparation: Glue the “A _____ is” onto the folder. (A copy with dots under each word is provided to help emergent readers.) Cut and laminate the pictures and the words quick and slow.

Procedure: Students place a picture card in the sentence and choose “quick” or “slow” for the end of the sentence.

Print Concept

A  is quick.


A  is quick.

A _____ is 

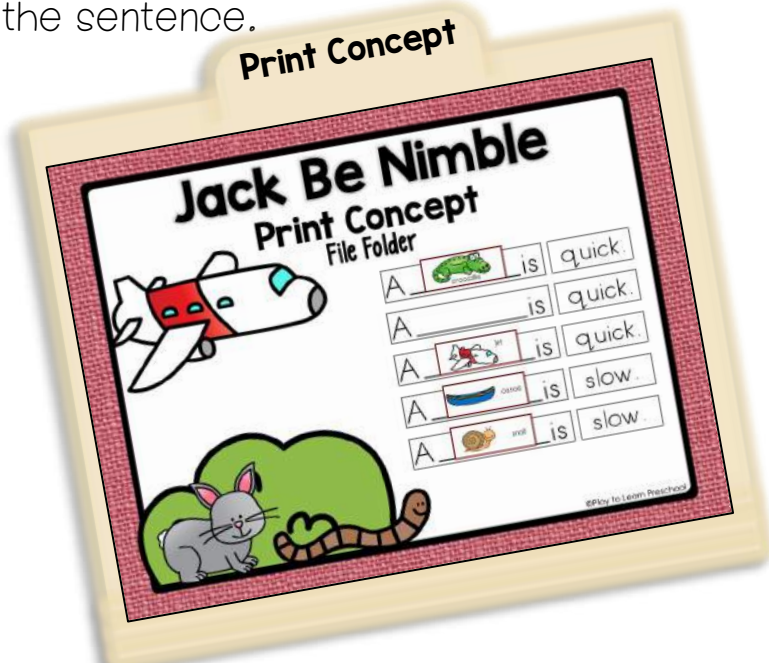
A _____ is 

A  is slow.

A  is slow.

A _____ is 

A _____ is



Take-Home Mini Book

Foldable Emergent Readers

1. Print a poem for each child.
2. Fold the page into fourths – landscape first, then portrait. (You might glue the page together for younger children.)
3. Invite students to point to the words and recite the memorized poem.

