

# Nursery Rhyme Cards

## Early Composition Activity

*Print as many sets as needed for home or classroom use. Cut along solid lines, laminate if desired.*

### Ways to Play:

1. **Composition:** Give each child their own set, along with a large piece of construction paper. Allow them time to arrange the cards as they'd like, then glue down onto the construction paper. Let them share their composition with a friend or the class as everyone reads the child's composition.
2. **Played in pairs:** distribute half a set of both the nursery rhyme cards to each friend, and arrange the ABC cards in front of them in a row with a blank space in between each one (for the nursery rhyme cards—so that it will become an ABAB pattern when layed out). Sing the song and use the cards to prompt what nursery rhyme verse should be sung. Players lay down their cards as they sing their verse, both players sing the ABC chorus. After playing, look through the composition they created together and celebrate!
3. **Look for patterns:** Children will begin to notice as these cards are being played with that the song turns the cards into an ABAB pattern. Talk about it as they make the discovery, mention how just like we can see patterns in the pictures, there are patterns in music that we can hear. Find a masterwork to share with an ABAB pattern (In music we call this “Binary Form”), and enjoy finding the two distinct sections, as well as when the pattern repeats. A possible suggestion of Binary Form is Für Elise by Beethoven.
4. **Scaffolding:** When playing the game if you notice a child needs extra help coming up with a nursery rhyme verse, hand them the deck of nursery rhyme cards so they can have one ready to go!