



# Mother Goose Mania: Three Little Kittens



## Introduction

Nursery rhymes are an important early literacy tool. They introduce children to the rhymes and rhythms that make up language in ways beyond just sharing stories. This helps children hear the sounds and syllables that make up our words. Nursery rhymes are also a great source of new vocabulary, making it easier for you to introduce new concepts to your child. This activity builds on nursery rhymes you already know and introduces new and expanded ways to explore those rhymes. We'll be using common household items and simple craft supplies.

This exploration activity - mitten lacing helps strengthen the muscles in your child's wrist and fingers that are needed for writing. And it also helps practice hand-eye coordination.



## Early Literacy Connection

- Lacing activities help your child perfect the pincer grip, a fine-motor movement that we use to hold pencils for writing. They also help strengthen the muscles in your child's wrist and fingers
- Lacing builds hand-eye coordination, which is important to both reading and writing
- This activity is a great way to talk about concept words, like up, down, and through. This directional vocabulary is important to describing your child's world, but is also an important concept that your child will use for math, science, and social studies in the future
- Sharing nursery rhymes teaches rhythm, repetition, and rhyming. This helps your child understand how language works
- Squeezing clothespins builds fine motor skills and the pincer grip that your child needs to hold a pencil and get ready to write
- Nursery rhymes also help build memory capabilities that can be applied to all sorts of activities.
- Exploring with multiple senses builds your child's brain connections, supports language development, and builds fine motor skills

## Supplies

- |  |                     |                            |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------|
| • Construction paper, cardstock or light cardboard | • Scissors          | • Yarn, twine or shoelaces |
|  | • Single hole punch | • Pencil                   |

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## Instructions

1. Trace around a pair of hands (or freehand) to make your mittens. Heavy paper works best, but if you don't have any, you can substitute something like a paper plate
2. Punch holes all the way around your mittens. Do not put the holes too close together
3. Thread your yarn up and down through the holes to lace your mittens. If you are using yarn, you may want to wrap the end with tape to prevent fraying
4. If your child is struggling to keep the lace from pulling all the way through, you may want to tie a knot or tape the end for stability
5. If you'd like, tie a bow at the end to complete your project

## Review

Explore additional learning concepts on our [website](#) and blog [Plano Library Learns/Early Learning](#), including information about library [databases](#) for each aspect of STEAM

This a great activity to practice your child's fine motor skills. Here are some questions to ask:

- What hole should we start with? What hole should we go to next? Talk through your process to build sequencing and problem-solving skills.
- Can you show me up? Can you show me down? What about through? Have your child demonstrate what each term means. When else might you use these terms?

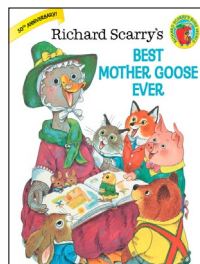
## Books to Explore

Through the [Libby app](#) and your library card, you can read eBooks about painting and art with your little one



***La Madre Goose:  
Nursery Rhymes for  
Los Niños***  
by Susan  
Middleton Elya

[Checkout](#)



***Richard Scarry's  
Best Mother Goose  
Ever!***  
by Richard Scarry

[Checkout](#)



***101 Kids Activities  
That Are the  
Bestest, Funnest  
Ever!***  
by Holly Homer  
and Rachel Miller

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