

Language:

Poetry Tea Time

Learning Value:

This activity promotes development and learning by encouraging children to demonstrate knowledge of print and alphabet.

Materials Needed:

- ▶ Favorite children's poems ([here's a link](#))
- ▶ Tea, juice, or another favorite beverage
- ▶ A favorite snack
- ▶ Cups and dishes

Participants:

This activity is intended for adult/child interaction.

Directions:

Step 1: Tell your child that you're going to have a poetry tea party. Set the cups, dishes, food and beverages on a table.

Step 2: Read just one or two poems as you have tea. Use expression and exaggeration. You can comment on unusual or interesting words, but don't worry about discussing the poem's meaning or analyzing it. Just relish the time together and the language of the poems.

Learn More:

Try reading one poem a day to your child, over breakfast, before an afternoon nap, or at bedtime. Poetry reading doesn't have to be dry. Choose poems that are short, beautiful, funny, or silly. If your child is interested, use a poem to spark learning experiences. For example, after reading "Berries" by Lilian Moore, learn about growing berries, make strawberry ice cream, or buy several types of berries to explore.

Poetry resources for children:

Favorite Poems Old and New selected by Helen Ferris; illustrated by Leonard Weisgard

Here's a Little Poem collected by Jane Yolen and Andrew Fusek Peters; illustrated by Polly Dunbar

Honey, I Love by Eloise Greenfield

Lucy Cousin's Treasury of Nursery Rhymes by Lucy Cousins

Read-Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young selected by Jack Prelutsky; illustrated by Marc Brown

When Green Becomes Tomatoes by Julie Fogliano and Julie Morstad

Bright Horizons.

World at Home