



# Knockbreda Nursery School

## March 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

During the month of March, we will be learning about two topics; Fairytale Fantasy and Wake Up Spring! Through these themes, we have so many exciting activities to enjoy in the upcoming half-term!

As you know, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and we look forward to seeing the children dressed as their favourite book characters and enjoying shared stories, read by our parents and carers!

We continue to work in Shared Partnership with Knockbreda Primary School and St Bernard's Primary School, with our project focusing on effective literacy development in the outdoor environment. As part of this programme partnership, Nursery will be working with St Bernard's Preschool to take part in a number of shared play sessions, here at Knockbreda Nursery School and also at St Bernard's Preschool. These will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020. If consent is required for your child to walk to the St Bernard's campus, your Class Teacher will make you aware of this.

### Themes and topics

Once we have completed our mini-topic on Fairytale Fantasy, our topic will move on to Wake Up Spring. This will involve learning about the season of Spring, new life, growing and gardening. The children will enjoy planting seeds, looking after plants, learning about new life and role-playing in our Garden Centre. We are already enjoying the beautiful spring flowers growing around school from the bulbs that were planted as part of our Eco Days last year.

### Parenting Workshop

Parenting NI are running a workshop entitled "Parenting Childrens' Challenging Behaviour".

This workshop will take place on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 from 10am-12noon at Currie Primary School, Limestone Road, Belfast. Leaflets and details of how to register will be sent home in your child's tray.

## Important information

- We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 with a range of engaging literacy activities. If you would be willing to come into Nursery and share your favourite story with a small group of children between 8.30-9am on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020, please sign up using the timetable on your child's classroom door. The children are also invited to dress as their favourite book character and donate to the charity Book Aid.
- As part of our Fairytale Fantasy topic, we will be using junk to model castles fit for kings! We would appreciate any donations of safe, clean household junk such as kitchen rolls, tissue boxes etc. Please note that for hygiene reasons, we cannot accept toilet rolls but we would greatly appreciate kitchen rolls.
- To further complement our growing topic, we would appreciate it if you could please send a baby photo of your child to school. Please clearly name this photo and add a caption on the reverse of the photo so that we can use this as a discussion point during Circle Time. School would like to display these photos in class and will return them at the end of the topic. Many thanks for your support with this.
- Please note that school and Hub Cub will be closed for St Patrick's Day on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- Thank you for continuing to use our Cash for Clobber clothing bank - this has raised £72 for school to date. If at any stage you notice that the Clothing Bank is full, please let us know so that we can arrange for additional collections as needed. A reminder that you can also help raise free funds for Knockbreda Nursery through the Giving Machine ([www.thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk)) which is a fundraising organisation designed to help charitable causes and schools raise money online. By signing up and shopping online via The Giving Machine, you will generate a free cash donation for us. Further details are available from the School Office if needed. These funds will be used to further develop our outdoor play resources.
- The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) has relaunched their safeguarding app for parents, carers and professionals. This is a very useful tool to have on your phone giving instant access to local and regional support services, information on a range of safeguarding issues, access to the regional child protection policy and procedures, and a range of resources. Search for SBNI in the App store to download.

## Eco Schools Update

As you are aware, Knockbreda Nursery School has achieved Green Flag eco school status and the environmental curriculum forms an important part of our pre-school teaching. On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March we are looking forward to a visit from The Recycle Rat to further our understanding of recycling.

## Rights Respecting Schools Update

This year Knockbreda Nursery School is working towards achieving the Rights Respecting Schools' Silver Award.

### What is this award?

*Silver: Rights Aware comes after Bronze: Rights Committed.*

It is granted by Unicef UK to schools that show good progress towards embedding children's rights in the school's policy, practice and ethos.

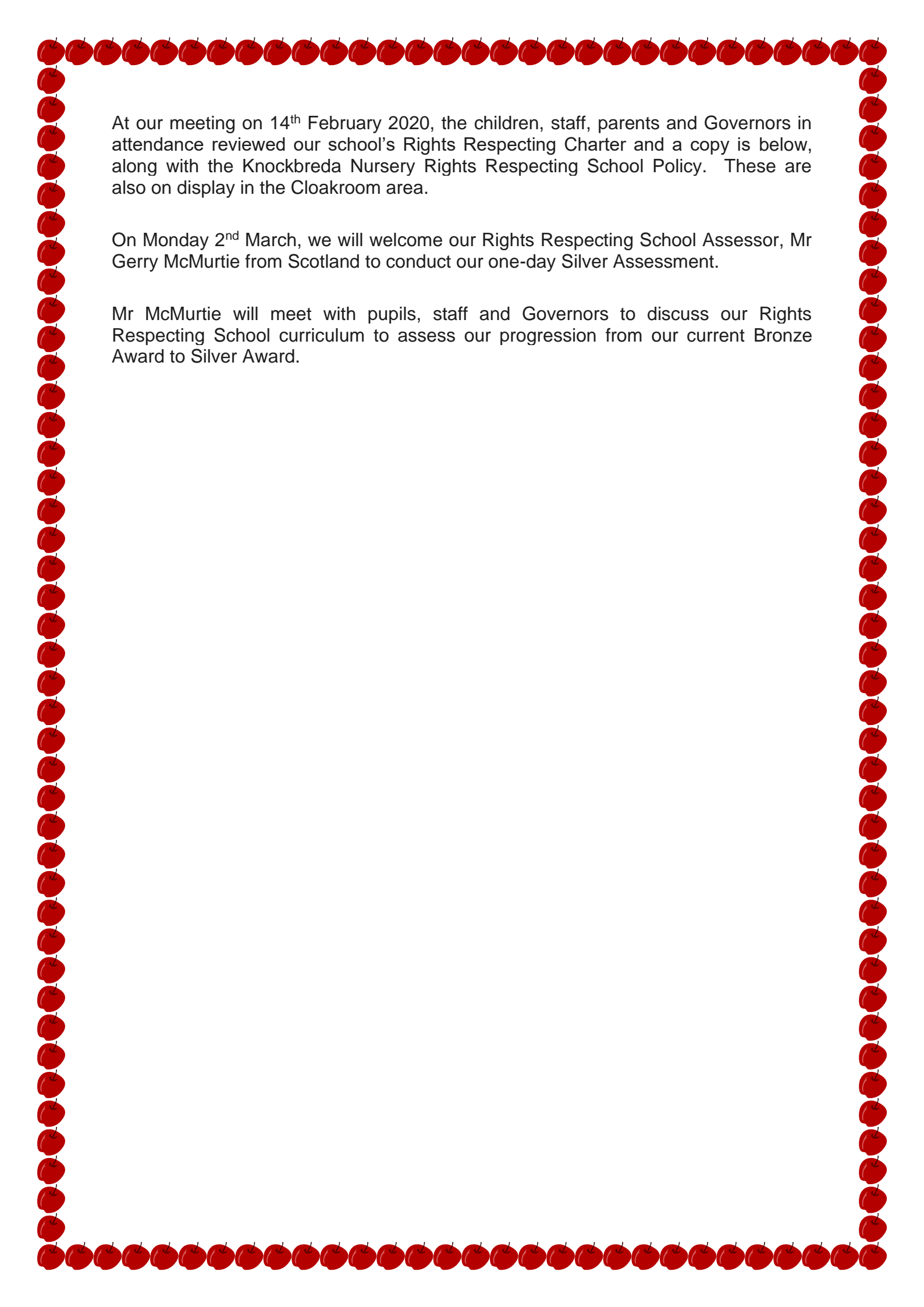
To achieve Silver: Rights Aware, schools will be assessed by a Unicef UK RRSA assessor who will look at the whole school's rights respecting work.

At Knockbreda Nursery School we are aiming for:

1. Teaching and Learning about rights: for the whole school community through training, curriculum, assemblies, topics, focus days/weeks, displays.
2. Teaching and Learning through rights: by modelling rights respecting language and attitudes and making strategic decisions that involve our pupils.
3. Being ambassadors for the rights of others: developing as rights respecting citizens.

The children at Knockbreda Nursery School are aware of the ABCDE of rights:

<b>A</b> Rights are for ALL children. <b>UNIVERSAL</b>	<b>B</b> Rights are there at BIRTH. <b>INHERENT</b>	<b>C</b> Rights CANNOT be taken away. <b>INALIENABLE</b>	<b>D</b> Rights DO NOT have to be earned. <b>UNCONDITIONAL</b>	<b>E</b> All rights are EQUALLY important. <b>INDIVISIBLE</b>
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At our meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020, the children, staff, parents and Governors in attendance reviewed our school's Rights Respecting Charter and a copy is below, along with the Knockbreda Nursery Rights Respecting School Policy. These are also on display in the Cloakroom area.

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, we will welcome our Rights Respecting School Assessor, Mr Gerry McMurtie from Scotland to conduct our one-day Silver Assessment.

Mr McMurtie will meet with pupils, staff and Governors to discuss our Rights Respecting School curriculum to assess our progression from our current Bronze Award to Silver Award.

## OUR SCHOOL CHARTER

**Whilst teaching at Knockbreda Nursery School builds upon a number of articles from the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), our School Charter is based on two main articles; Article 24 and Article 31.**

### ARTICLES

**Article 24.** Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

**Article 31.** Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

#### **How can children respect these rights?**

- By following the Nursery rules.
- By playing with (and including) other children.
- Trying new food.

#### **How can the duty bearers respect these rights?**

- By acting as role-models for the children.
- By supplying fruit and vegetables for the children.
- By ensuring the children have access to clean water.
- By keeping the children safe.
- By making sure the children have access to outdoor play.

#### **Our charter is linked to our Nursery rules**

Tidy up

Listen and do

Walking feet

Share

Indoor voices

Kind hands, feet and mouths

## Rights Respecting Schools Policy

Knockbreda Nursery School is a rights respecting school.

Knockbreda Nursery School aims to demonstrate through its work that it positively values and respects all children and their rights. By actively teaching about rights and incorporating rights into the delivery of an enhanced curriculum, staff endeavour to promote a Rights Respecting School ethos.

Knockbreda Nursery School is committed to helping to develop pupils as responsible citizens who want, and are able, to make positive contributions to enhance the ethos of the school community.

This is achieved by encouraging our pupils to:

- know and understand what rights are
- respect the rights of other people
- understand how their behaviour can impact on the rights of others
- develop their self-esteem and self-worth
- be aware of their personal safety and the safety of others

We promote and strengthen this ethos by:

- creating a learning environment conducive to the fostering of successful learning and firm respect for rights
- ensuring all pupils, staff and parents are aware of our “Rights Respecting Policy” and understand how it operates
- putting this policy into practical operation
- positively promoting rights and respect for the rights of others and integrating this into the curriculum based learning

### **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**

The Convention sets out the rights of children in 54 Articles. These basic, fundamental rights encompass survival, protection, development and participation.

- Rights are universal and cannot be taken away.
- The main responsibility for ensuring that all children enjoy their rights lies with the adults.
- All rights are equally important.

The UNCRC is underpinned by 4 principles:

1. Non-discrimination
2. Commitment to the best interest of the child
3. The right to life, survival and development
4. Respect for the views of the child

At Knockbreda Nursery School, the teaching staff have developed the pre-school curriculum content to incorporate the UNCRC and actively teach the children about their rights through Circle Time sessions, with links to play provision as appropriate.

- Displays are explicitly linked to the UNCRC, in a way the children will understand
- All members of the school community are encouraged to be ambassadors for children's rights.
- Parents and Governors are included in our work as a Rights Respecting School through regular Steering Group meetings.

The School has a Rights Respecting Ethos:

- All members of the school community are encouraged to be role models and demonstrate rights respecting values.
- The school environment is safe and appropriate for children, physically and emotionally.
- Conflicts are resolved using constructive and restorative approaches where children are encouraged and empowered to seek solutions to problems and issues.

Children are empowered to become active citizens and learners:

- Pupils' opinions and thoughts are sought, encouraged and respected through the school's work on the eco schools' and rights respecting schools' agenda.

### **The role of staff**

It is the role of the staff at Knockbreda Nursery School to act as the Duty Bearers and to ensure the promotion of respect for children's rights and indeed to protect and guarantee children's rights.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed and monitored in line with the school's policy review schedule.

## Dates for your diary:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday 2 March 2020	All day	RRS Assessment Day
Thursday 5 March 2020	All day	World Book Day. Dress as your favourite book character and donate to Book Aid.
Tuesday 17 March 2020	Closed	School closed for St Patrick's Day.
Friday 3 April 2020 <b>No Hub Club</b>	Finish 10.40- 11am No school meals.	Easter egg hunt. School closes for Easter and will re-open on Monday 20 April 2020, as normal.
Friday 8 May 2020	Closed	School closed for May Day.
Friday 15 May 2020	9am	School Photographer in school at 9am to take class photographs.
Monday 18 May 2020 <b>Hub Club in Forest School</b>	Early close 12.10- 12.30pm	Induction meeting for new parents/carers. All pupils to be collected from school between 12.10-12.30pm prompt. School lunch served as normal.
Tuesday 19 - Wednesday 20 May 2020 <b>Hub Club in Forest School</b>	Early close 12.10- 12.30 pm	Play and Stay sessions for new pupils- all pupils to be collected from school between 12.10-12.30pm prompt. School lunch served as normal.
Monday 25 May 2020	Closed	School closed for the bank holiday.
Friday 29 May 2020	All day	<b>Diversity Day</b> An opportunity to celebrate and learn more about the diversity of cultures attending our school and in our local community! We would love our parents to take part in this special event!



## Fairytale Fantasy

### There was a Princess long-ago

There was a Princess long-ago  
Long-ago, long-ago  
There was a Princess long-ago  
Long-a-go!



And she lived in a big high tower  
A big high tower, a big high tower  
And she lived in a big high tower  
Long-a-go!

One day a fairy waved her wand  
Waved her wand, waved her wand  
One day a fairy waved her wand  
Long-a-go!



The Princess slept for a hundred years  
A hundred years, a hundred years  
The Princess slept for a hundred years  
Long-a-go!

A great big forest grew around  
Grew around, grew around  
A great big forest grew around  
Long-a-go!

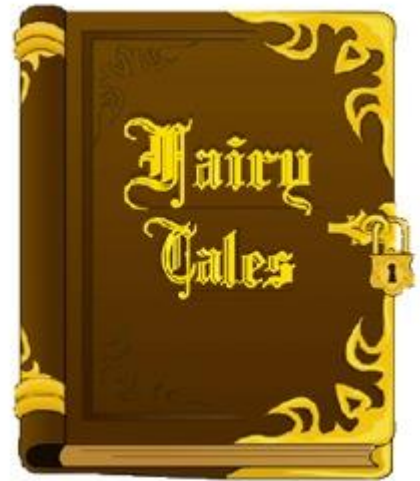
A gallant Prince came riding by  
Riding by, riding by  
A gallant Prince came riding by  
Long-a-go!



He took his sword and cut it down  
Cut it down, cut it down  
He took his sword and cut it down  
Long-a-go!

He woke the princess with a kiss  
With a kiss, with a kiss  
He woke the princess with a kiss  
Long-a-go!

So everybody's happy now  
Happy now, happy now  
So everybody's happy now  
Ha-ppy now!

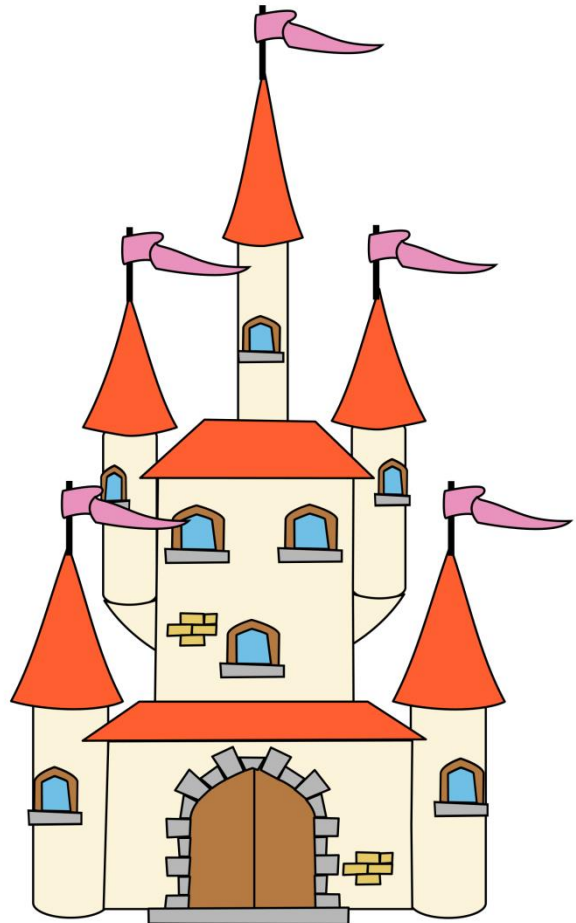


### **Big Bad Wolf**

(Tune "This old Man" )

Three little pigs  
Walking down the street  
A big bad wo-lf they did meet  
So they ran home fast  
and shut the door tight.  
No big wolf will get them tonight.

A little girl  
Wearing red  
Spied a big bad wolf  
Who said  
"What's in your basket"  
"May I have a bite?"  
"NO," yelled the little girl  
Who ran in fright.



### Wake Up Spring

Wake up Spring  
Wake up flowers  
Wake up weeds  
Wake up frogs  
Wake up seeds  
Wake up bears  
Wake up bees  
Wake up Spring  
Won't you please?



### I'll Plant a Little Seed

*(Tune: I'm a Little Teapot)*

I'll plant a little seed, in the ground  
Out comes the yellow sun, big and round  
Down comes the cool rain, soft and slow  
Up comes the little seed, grow, grow, grow!



### Old MacDonald had a farm

Old MacDonald had a farm,  
E-I-E-I-O  
And on his farm he had a pig,  
E-I-E-I-O  
With an oink oink here,  
And an oink oink there,  
Here an oink, there an oink,  
Everywhere an oink, oink  
Old MacDonald had a farm,  
E-I-E-I-O *(Repeat with cow, duck, horse, sheep, cat etc)*



### **The farmer plants the seeds**

Sung to: "The Farmer In The Dell"

The farmer plants the seeds  
The farmer plants the seeds  
Hi, Ho and Cherry O  
The farmer plants the seeds  
The rain begins to fall  
The sun begins to shine  
The plants begin to grow  
The buds all open up  
The flowers smile at me



### **It's Springtime**

Sung to: "Did you Ever see a Lassie?"

My- eyes can see it's spring-time, it's spring-time, it's spring-time.  
my- eyes can see it's spring-time, the grass is so green!  
The green grass, the flowers, the sunshine and showers.  
My- eyes can see it's spring-time and I am so glad.

My-ears can hear it's spring time, it's spring time, it's spring time.  
My- ears can hear it's spring-time, the birds sweetly sing.  
The birds sing, the lambs bleat, the frogs croak, the bees buzz.  
My- ears can hear it's spring time, and I am so glad.

My-body can feel it's spring time, it's spring time, it's spring time.  
my-body can feel it's spring time, the air is so warm.  
The warm air, the breez-es, no frost and no freez-es.  
My- body can feel it's spring time, and I am so glad!