Creative Rhyme Handout Ideas

This sheet provides a shortcut for those who like to create handouts or give participants a souvenir at each storytime. The time involved is minimal, especially if you have the equipment or volunteers to assist you. Such handouts help to remind storytime participants to continue storytime at home because these will often find their way to the family “note board,” like the front of the refrigerator, which encourages them to practice the rhyme at home. You can copy and paste the following rhymes onto an address label and then “stick” them onto a cutout shape, such as an Ellison die or a 2-by-8-inch rectangular piece of paper that can be used as a bookmark. I have not included the titles due to limited space. The cutout shape should reflect the rhyme (e.g., apple rhyme on an apple shape), and the bookmark shape can include the library logo or information on one end while the other end features a decoration, such as a stamp or sticker, that reflects the subject of the rhyme. I have found that Avery Label 5971—2.63-by-1 or 2.65-by-1 inches works well. After copying the rhyme to the label template, you can also change the type of font and center the words on the label for a more “finished” look. For a more dramatic impact, use a bold font. You can also use this handout to create a simple booklet: use a metal ring (like individual loose-leaf rings found at office supply stores) to join together the shapes or index cards with the rhymes. Pass out one of these at each program, and your participants will end up with a nice collection of materials for use at home.

An elephant goes like this and that.  
He's terribly big and he's terribly fat.  
He has no fingers!  
He has no toes!  
But goodness, gracious—what a nose!

“Gack-goon,” went the little green frog one day.  
“Gack-goon,” went the little green frog.  
“Gack-goon,” went the little green frog one day,  
And his eyes went “Gack-gack-goon.”

Way up high in the apple tree,  
Two little apples did I see.  
So I shook that tree as hard as I could,  
And d-o-w-n came the apples.  
Umm! They were good!

Twinkle, twinkle, little star.  
How I wonder what you are.  
Up above the world so high, like a diamond in the sky.  
Twinkle, twinkle little star.  
How I wonder what you are.

This is the way we rake the leaves,  
Rake the leaves, rake the leaves.  
This is the way we rake the leaves,  
So early in the morning.

Row, row, row your boat  
Gently down the stream.  
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,  
Life is but a dream.

The turkey is a funny bird.  
His head goes wobble, wobble.  
He only says a single word.  
That's “Gobble! Gobble! Gobble!”

Warm hands, warm.  
Do you know how?  
If you want to warm your hands,  
Blow on them now!