Rhyme at Circle Time

Use hand cleaning rhymes not only to teach the importance of clean hands but also to practice the literacy skills of listening, matching, auditory discrimination, vocabulary and rhyming.

How to:

- Write these short rhymes on chart paper and read them to the children in your class.
- Ask children to show you the matching rhyming words. How are they the same or different?
- Help children note that some words have similar spellings and others do not.
- Read the rhymes again and ask children to help fill in the last rhyming word for each phrase.
- Invite children to suggest other situations where hand cleaning is important. Help guide the class to make up a new rhyme to add to the collection.
- For an activity extension, ask children to illustrate their rhyme chart with drawings or photos taken doing the different cleaning actions.

Clean Hands Rhymes

Before a meal or just a snack
Clean your hands both front and back.

Petting cats sure brings a smile
when done, clean hands for a while.

Finger painting’s loads of fun,
wipe both hands when you are done.

Clean your hands throughout the day
Use a Wet Ones after play.

Wipe, Wipe, Wipe Your Hands
(Tune: Row, Row, Row your Boat)

Wipe, wipe, wipe your hands
When you sneeze or cough,
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily
Wipe those germs right off!

Clean, clean, clean your hands
After petting Spot
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily
Dirty’s what you’re not!

Wipe, wipe, wipe your hands,
Just before you eat,
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Then we munch a treat!

Skills Learned: germ awareness, creative movement and dramatics, large motor coordination

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