**What to do today**

*IMPORTANT! Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and with any weblinks or use of the Internet required.*

**1. Poem reading**

Read and enjoy the poem *Nut Tree* by Julia Donaldson.

**2. Recognising rhymes**

Look at *Rhymes in Nut Tree*. The rhyming words in the first verse of the poem have been highlighted.

* Highlight the rhyming words in all the other verses.
* Read the further suggested rhyming words for each set.
* Watch out – there is a word in each box that doesn’t rhyme! Can you spot it? Highlight the non-rhyming word.
* Now work together to check with the *Answers* page.

**3. The life cycle of a tree**

*Nut Tree* tells the story of a tree from a tiny nut to a full-grown tree making more nuts of its own. We call this story a tree’s ‘life cycle’.

* Look at *Life Cycle of a Nut Tree*.
* Pick any box you like. In it, draw a picture of the nut underground.
* Follow the arrows round, drawing a picture for each stage in order, using the details in each verse to tell you what to draw.
* Add a descriptive label to each box: *Nut underground; Tiny shoot; Small tree*, etc.

**Now try this Fun-Time Extra**

* Try to learn *Nut Tree* off by heart. Start with just the first verse.
* Add actions or hand movements to each verse as you say them out loud, e.g. bunching your hand up like a small nut for the first verse, showing one little finger pointing upwards, wriggling, for the tiny shoot in verse two…

**Nut Tree**

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Small, brown, hard, round,
The nut is lying underground.

Now a shoot begins to show.
Now the shoot begins to grow.

Tall, taller, tall as can be,
The shoot is growing into a tree.

And branches grow, and stretch and spread
With twigs and leaves above your head.

And on a windy autumn day
The nut tree bends, the branches sway,

The leaves fly off and whirl around,
And nuts go tumbling to the ground:

Small, brown, hard, round.

*by Julia Donaldson*

From *Wriggle and Roar*, by Julia Donaldson and Nick Sharratt

**Rhymes in Nut Tree**

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Verses* | *Suggested rhyming words* |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Small, brown, hard, round,The nut is lying underground. | sound loud hound frowned found |
| Now a shoot begins to show.Now the shoot begins to grow. | so low ohhow sew |
| Tall, taller, tall as can be,The shoot is growing into a tree. | see sea hekey toe |
| And branches grow, and stretch and spreadWith twigs and leaves above your head. | bed said fed sad ted bread |
| And on a windy autumn dayThe nut tree bends, the branches sway, | hay say by spray clay |
| The leaves fly off and whirl around,And nuts go tumbling to the ground:Small, brown, hard, round. | bound crownedmound showdrowned |

**Rhymes in Nut Tree Answers**

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Small, brown, hard, round,The nut is lying underground. | sound loud hound frowned found |
| Now a shoot begins to show.Now the shoot begins to grow. | so low ohhow sew |
| Tall, taller, tall as can be,The shoot is growing into a tree. | see sea hekey toe |
| And branches grow, and stretch and spreadWith twigs and leaves above your head. | bed said fed sad ted bread |
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| The leaves fly off and whirl around,And nuts go tumbling to the ground:Small, brown, hard, round. | bound crownedmound fonddrowned |

**The Life Cycle of a Nut Tree**