March and April

Easter Finger Rhyme: Clover the Rabbit Looks for His Eggs

Clover the rabbit was hopping so high that all his eggs fell out of his basket. The children help him look and find out who really lays the eggs.

Age
from about 3 years

Time
about 25 minutes with the finger rhyme and word cards; the puppet play with the egg hunt alone takes about 8 minutes

Puppets
1 hand puppet; you play the second role yourself

Materials
a small basket with a cloth, five brightly coloured wooden or plastic eggs, scraps of paper or pieces of fabric for the nest, a paintbrush if you like

Puppet play

Read the script through once beforehand. It's fine to read from the page while you play.

Roles

Clover
the rabbit (hand puppet)

You
in your own voice, without a puppet

Puppet: A rabbit or hare hand puppet.

Getting ready

Before the session, hide four eggs around the room where the children can easily reach them: behind a cushion, under a chair, next to a shelf. Make a note of the hiding places. Lay the four word cards ‘grass’, ‘bush’, ‘flower’ and ‘tree’ face down in a row. Put the fifth egg behind one of them and cover it with a small cloth. Place the empty basket in the middle with the cloth over it. Clover sits on your hand behind your back.

Tips for playing the roles

- Give Clover a quick, slightly breathless voice at first, and let him calm down once the eggs are found.
- Hopping: bounce the puppet up and down in small jumps.
- Sniffing: move the puppet's head forwards and back in small, quick twitches.
- Don't be afraid of pauses. Wherever it says 'let the children answer', wait calmly.
- Each time a word appears in bold, turn over the matching word card.

Script

Stage directions are in italics. Words in **bold** are on the word cards.

The rabbit hops out from behind your back.

Clover: Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear!

You: Hello! Who are you?

Clover: I'm Clover, the **rabbit**. Clover's my favourite thing to munch. But today I've got a problem.

You: Oh no, what's happened?

Clover: I had five bright eggs in my **basket**. Then I did a big hop, really high, and bump! Now there isn't a single **egg** left.

You lift the cloth. The basket is empty.

You: Children, will you help Clover look?

The children hunt for the eggs. Each egg they find goes into the basket. Say the colour as you go: 'a red egg', 'a blue egg' …

Clover: *(counting)* One, two, three, four … there's still one missing!

You: Where could it be? In the **grass**? Under a **bush**? By a **flower**? Behind a **tree**?

Turn over the four word cards one by one. The last egg is under the cloth behind one of them.

Clover: There it is! Five eggs. Thank you!

You: Tell me, Clover, where did you get the eggs from? Do rabbits lay eggs?

Let the children answer. There is usually some laughter here.

Clover: No! The **hen** lays the eggs. I only paint them, with my **paintbrush**.

Clover paints in the air with his paw. The children join in.

You: And what hatches out of an egg if the hen sits on it for long enough?

*Let the children answer. Turn over the **chick** word card as you go.*

Clover: A chick! Cheep, cheep. But nothing hatches out of my painted eggs. They're just for finding.

You: And who says 'baa' in the field?

*Let the children answer. Turn over the **lamb** word card as you go.*

Clover: The lamb is my friend. But now my eggs need a **nest**.

The children make a nest out of scraps of paper or pieces of fabric. The eggs go inside.

Clover: What a lovely nest! Thank you, everyone. Now I'm hopping home. Hop, hop, hop!

You put the puppet down, because the finger rhyme needs both hands. Move on to the finger rhyme 'Five Bright Eggs'.

Finger rhyme: "Five Bright Eggs"

The second time through, stop after the fourth line: how many eggs are left? The children count out loud. The third time, one child can say which finger has 'hopped away'.

1. **Hop, hop, rabbit, round and round,**
   Index and middle fingers are the ears; the hand hops round in a circle on your knee.

2. **sniff, sniff, sniff! What has he found?**
   The hand stops. The children sniff with their own noses.

3. **Five bright eggs! Hip, hip, hooray!**
   The other hand makes a fist; the fingers pop out one at a time.

4. **Count them. Oh! One's hopped away!**
   The rabbit hand taps each of the five fingers, then one folds back down. Look surprised.

5. **Look about, look all about,**
   Turn your head to the left and to the right.

6. **from the bush it's peeping out!**
   The folded finger pops back up and wiggles.

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Word cards

The twelve words from the puppet play come as a printable A4 sheet: twelve cards with a picture and a word, ready to cut out. If you like, draw some more cards with the children.

rabbit	basket	egg	grass
bush	flower	tree	hen
paintbrush	chick	lamb	nest

Notes for practitioners

1. The set works well in the weeks leading up to Easter. Not every family celebrates Easter, so the word 'Easter' doesn't appear in the puppet play itself; that way the set can also be used as a spring egg hunt.

2. Use wooden or plastic eggs. They won't break during the hunt.

3. A suggested running order: the puppet play with the egg hunt first, then the finger rhyme two or three times, and finish with a word card game. For example, 'Where's the egg?': put an egg on one of the cards and the children say 'in the grass', 'under the bush', 'by the flower'.

4. The egg hunt brings in colour words and positional language: behind, under, next to, by.

5. All twelve words come up in the puppet play. Children who are more confident in English can help Clover count. Clover is allowed to get the counting wrong now and then.

6. Home languages: ask the children or their parents what 'egg' or 'rabbit' is in their home language. Clover repeats the word and lets them correct him.

Suitable puppets: Rabbit and hare hand puppets at Daliono. Many puppets you already have will work just as well.

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rabbit



basket



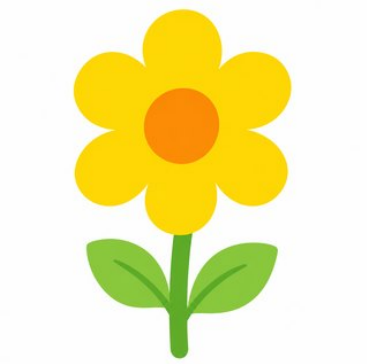
egg



grass



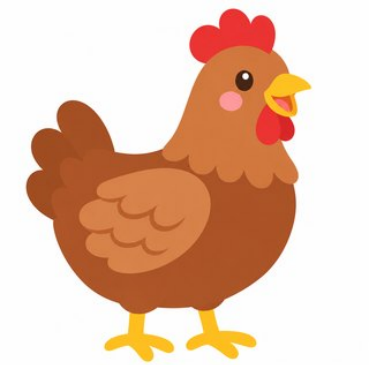
bush



flower



tree



hen



paintbrush



chick



lamb



nest

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PUPPET PLAY WORKSHOP

Easter

Dear family,

At nursery we have been playing with our hand puppet, **Clover (the rabbit)**. Our theme was **Easter**. Along the way, we learnt these words:



Our words


rabbit


basket


egg


grass


bush


flower


tree


hen


paintbrush


chick


lamb


nest

Our finger rhyme to join in with

1. Hop, hop, rabbit, round and round,
2. sniff, sniff, sniff! What has he found?
3. Five bright eggs! Hip, hip, hooray!
4. Count them. Oh! One's hopped away!
5. Look about, look all about,
6. from the bush it's peeping out!

Ideas for home

- Ask your child which words they still remember, then say the same words in your language.
- Talk with your child in the language you know best.
- Do the finger rhyme together, in your language too if you like.

Best wishes from all of us at nursery

You can also find this letter, the rhyme and the words here:
www.daliono.de/puppet-play-workshop/easter/

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