

A Hunting We Will Go

This charming traditional song is great for building early literacy skills. I sing it a capella (without instrumentation) while clapping a steady beat. When I get to the end of the rhyme I pause and ask children to think of as many words that rhyme with the animal as they can. Only then do I complete the rhyme using the lyrics below. Of course you can add your own verses and keep rhyming!

Ways to Use this Song

1. **Homemade Rhyming Boxes:** Children love the surprise as boxes are opened! See instructions on the next page for how to make them.
2. **Printed Pictures:** You may simply print out the pictures on the following pages and glue them to colored paper. Put them in a notebook, and sing the song. Don't turn the page revealing the finished rhyme (or turn the box), until children have had a chance to offer their own rhymes.
3. **Picture books from the library:** There are several illustrated versions of this song which extend the lyrics beyond my version. They are always a hit with children. Try them all!

A Hunting We Will Go

A hunting we will go, a hunting we will go
We'll catch a fox and put him in a box
And then we'll let him go

A hunting we will go, a hunting we will go
We'll catch a cat and put him in a hat
And then we'll let him go

A hunting we will go, a hunting we will go
We'll catch a snake and put him in a cake
And then we'll let him go

A hunting we will go, a hunting we will go
We'll catch a goat and put him in a boat
And then we'll let him go

A hunting we will go, a hunting we will go
We'll catch a mouse and put him in a house
And then we'll let him go

A hunting we will go, a hunting we will go
We'll just pretend, and in the end
We'll always let them go!

Directions for Making Rhyming Boxes

- 1 **Purchase a set of nesting boxes.** These may be found at craft stores, such as Michaels, Jo-Ann, or Ben Franklin.
Or make your own set from empty food containers in varying sizes, such as ice cream, cottage cheese, yogurt, oatmeal, etc. Paint each box a different color using acrylic paints. (available in small bottles at craft stores). Alternatively, you can use nesting gift boxes which are already colored.
- 2 **Print and cut out the clipart pictures** (on the following pages), selecting sizes that best fit each box.
- 3 **Glue one animal picture to each box.** On the opposite side of the box, glue the picture of the same animal placed inside the "rhyming" container (example: fox in box). To protect and seal pictures, paint white glue thinned with water over them, or use a decoupage medium such as "Mod Podge," available at craft stores.
- 4 **Write the name of each animal** the around the lid of its box with a permanent marker. You may also want to write words below the pictures to build on literacy skills.
- 5 **Place a sticker or draw an arrow** on the top of the lid of each box. When you assemble the nesting boxes, line up the arrow or sticker with the animal picture. This way, as you take each box out of the next, you will know which side should be facing the children so you don't give away the rhyme!
- 6 **Nest boxes inside each other,** so you begin the song with only the largest box visible. As you add each verse, take the next box out, stacking them as you go. You will end with a tower of boxes as in the photo. I shake the boxes before opening each one, adding to the surprise and suspense! Children love this and get very excited about seeing what comes out next!





















