

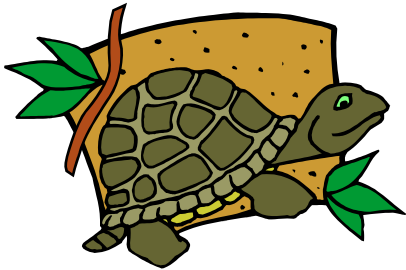
# Sisters In Stitches

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Apr/May/June 2007

## Over In the Meadow



“Over in the meadow in the sand in the sun, lived an old mother turtle and her little turtle one. Dig said the mother, we dig said the one so they dug all day in the sand in the sun.” So begins the wonderful traditional Southern Appalachian counting rhyme ‘Over in the Meadow’. Children are immediately captivated by its melodic rhythm and rich imagery.

I love taking a piece of literature, story or poem and integrating it across the curriculum, ‘Over in the Meadow’ is perfect for this.

This rhyme can be introduced by sharing one of two books that I recommend: Over In the Meadow by Olive A. Wadsworth, or Over In the Meadow by Jan Thornhill.

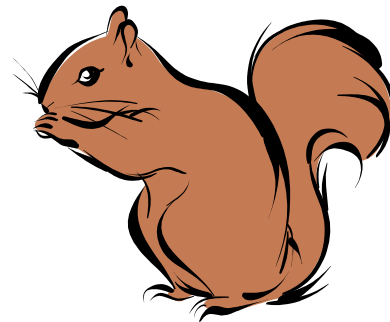
We have created a beautiful felt set that is also perfect for retelling the poem. After the children have heard the poem a couple of times, introduce the felt set. Use this time to involve the children by having them place the felt pieces up on the felt board at the appropriate time. This is a great opportunity to work on sequencing. Ask the children “what comes next?” as you go through the poem.

Writing the rhyme out on sentence strips and having it available in a pocket chart is also another way to help children connect the spoken word with the written symbol. Use a pointer to point to the words as you recite the poem. Allow the children to come up and point to specific letters or words. Over in the Meadow is also a great poem to teach

and review sight words such as: in and the. You could also have picture cards of the various animals that could be matched to the word. Example: the picture of a turtle would be matched to the word turtle.

Take time to discuss some of the vocabulary in ‘Over in the Meadow’ – children might not be familiar with the meaning of words such as gnaw, bask or even wee. Also discuss if ‘beave’ is a real word, check it in the dictionary with them. Older children could have their spelling lists made from words in the poem.

As a writing exercise have the children help write another verse to the poem. Have the children suggest an animal home, an animal and a verb and place them into the poem’s pattern. Example: Over in the meadow on the cool forest floor, lived an old mother squirrel and her little squirrels four. Chatter said the mother, we chatter said the four, so they chattered all day on the cool forest floor.



Briefly, here are a few ideas to extend ‘Over in the Meadow’ into other learning areas:

Math – Concepts and skills that may be taught from the poem are: counting, matching, one to one correspondence, addition, graphing and ordinal numbers.

Science – Themes or topics may include: new life in spring, life cycles, animal homes and habitats.

Art – Drawing or painting a pictorial version of Over in the Meadow would make a wonderful class book. Each child could choose his/her favorite animal mother and illustrate her with her young.

Create a meadow background on a bulletin board, have the children paint or draw various animals from the poem and place them on the background.

Drama – Culminate your ‘Over In the Meadow’ unit with a Spring Program. Have the children perform for their parents or even another class at school. Costumes may be as simple as a headband or necklace with

a picture of one of the animals from the poem on it.



## Featured Items

- **Over in the Meadow Felt Set**
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## **SISTERS IN STITCHES**

2423 Virginia Ave.  
Everett, WA 98201  
Toll Free: 866 259 4140  
Fax: 425 259 3219

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