



## USING POETRY TO TEACH ENGLISH TO YOUNG LEARNERS AT THE A1 LEVEL

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**Annotation:** *This article explores the benefits and practical applications of incorporating poetry into English language lessons for young learners at the A1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). It highlights how the inherent features of poetry, such as rhythm, rhyme, and repetition, can facilitate vocabulary acquisition, improve pronunciation, and foster a positive attitude towards language learning in young children. The article provides practical examples of age-appropriate poems and activities that can be effectively implemented in the classroom.*

**Keywords:** *Poetry, Young Learners, A1 Level, English Language Teaching, Vocabulary Acquisition, Pronunciation, Engagement, Rhyme, Rhythm, Repetition.*

### Introduction

Teaching English to young learners, particularly at the A1 level (beginners), requires engaging and accessible methods that cater to their cognitive and developmental stages. Traditional approaches often focus on basic vocabulary and simple sentence structures. However, incorporating creative and playful elements can significantly enhance the learning experience and foster a more positive attitude towards language acquisition. Poetry, with its inherent musicality and concise language, presents a unique and valuable tool for achieving these goals. This article argues for the effective use of poetry in teaching English to young A1



learners, outlining its benefits and providing practical strategies for classroom implementation.

Poetry offers several advantages when teaching English to young beginners:

**Vocabulary Acquisition:** Simple poems often revolve around everyday objects, actions, and feelings, introducing basic vocabulary in a memorable context. The repetition of words and phrases within a poem reinforces their meaning and aids retention. For example, a simple poem about animals can introduce words like "cat," "dog," "bird," and their associated sounds.

Example:

A little cat, a little cat,

Sitting on a mat, on a mat.

The little cat says, "Meow, meow, meow!"

Now it's gone, somehow, somehow!

The rhythmic nature of poetry helps young learners develop an intuitive understanding of English stress patterns and intonation. Reciting poems aloud encourages them to pay attention to the sounds of the language and practice correct pronunciation in a fun and non-threatening way. Clapping along to the rhythm can further enhance their awareness of syllable stress. The rhyming schemes and repetitive structures found in many children's poems make them easier to memorize. This not only builds confidence but also provides learners with chunks of language they can readily use in simple conversations. Poetry can make learning English more enjoyable and less intimidating for young learners. The playful nature of rhymes and the imaginative content of many poems can spark their curiosity and foster a positive association with the language. Using actions, gestures, and visuals alongside poems can further enhance engagement. Reading or reciting poems aloud helps young learners develop their listening comprehension skills. They learn to identify familiar words and phrases within a







meaningful context. Simple comprehension questions related to the poem can further solidify their understanding.

Integrating poetry into English language lessons for young A1 learners offers a multitude of benefits. It provides a playful and engaging context for vocabulary acquisition, pronunciation practice, and the development of listening and memory skills. By carefully selecting age-appropriate poems and employing creative teaching strategies, educators can harness the power of poetry to foster a positive learning environment and lay a strong foundation for future English language development in young children.

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