

Multilingual Nursery Rhymes: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Age recommendation:	3–7
Key Stage:	Early Years–KS1
Duration:	20–30 minutes
Keywords:	Mixing languages (translanguaging), language play, singing
Languages:	English, Italian, Norwegian
Resources provided:	Soundtrack with animation but no vocals Soundtrack with animation and vocals mixed up in English, Italian and Norwegian
Other materials:	Colouring-in sheets based on the illustrations for the animation Handout with the lyrics of the Soundtrack with animation and vocals mixed up in English, Italian and Norwegian

AIM

This activity is designed to encourage children to be creative and play with language/s and mix up the languages that may be part of their language competence. This approach, often referred to as ‘translanguaging’, sees the users of more than one language as drawing from all their linguistic resources as a single linguistic competence rather than separate ones. In practical terms, a bilingual user of English and Italian will see ‘star’ and ‘stella’ as two words for the same thing rather than two words belonging to different languages. Through this activity speakers that may identify as monolingual can also be encouraged to reflect on the richness of language in terms of synonyms, rhyme, registers and accents for instance.

PREPARATION

In preparation for this activity the teacher will explore the materials attached to this resource and may want to look up this nursery rhyme in different languages. It may also be useful to, if possible, to

