



# Parent-Child Mother Goose

## The Moon is Round

“The Moon is Round’ National Parent-Child Mother Goose Program virtual appreciation event was held on February 26, 2022. We were delighted to have 47 guests from across Canada celebrating the contributions of past members of the National Council (NC) over its history. We heard from Glenna Janzen, the PCMGP Executive Director at the time the National Council was formed, from Dana Brynelsen, Dianne Blewett, and Marilee Peters, the three past chair people of the NC and from Celia Lottridge, one of the founders and a decades long director of the program. They spoke of history, of struggles, of connection and of joy.

A program teacher from each province and territory in which there is PCMGP activity shared a rhyme or a song. This was a delight.

What did participants like?

\* How it was crafted so we could hear from the founders as well as past and present council members and teachers from all over the country. I liked hearing and being reminded of how the program got started and all the bumpy and smooth roads along the way. I liked the sharing of rhymes and songs in between and I loved hearing how committed and passionate people feel about PCMGP.

\* Its natural flow, beautiful rhymes, historical connections, and wonderful stories shared by those who started and who continue PCMGP.

*continued on page 8...*

### Inside this issue:

Tell me a story	2
Nursery rhymes	3
MG across Canada	4-5
Meet the Goose family	6
MG Parents' voices	7
The Moon is round	8-9

## TELL ME A STORY ...

# Two friends

*Storytelling is a big part of Mother Goose Program. Also, it is important for wellbeing, for reflecting on our values and deeds. During COVID-19 times our teachers decided to tell stories not only to the parents and the children but also at our staff meetings. Being a multicultural team and bringing stories from our cultures, it is amazing to share and discuss morals from all around the world.*

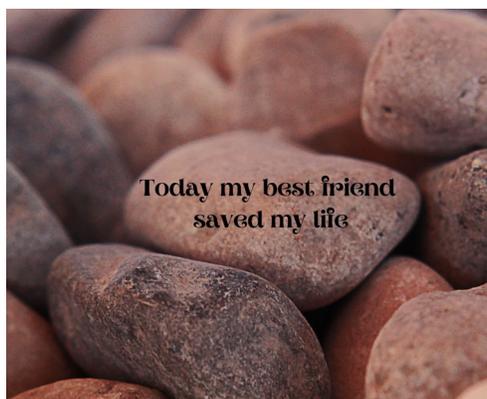
*Thank you, Hanifa Ghaus, for this beautiful story!*

*Ivanka Gotcheva*

Once upon a time there were two friends. One day they were crossing a desert and without a serious reason they started arguing. Getting more and more angry, one of them slapped the other across the face.

The mistreated friend was very upset but did not say anything. He just moved to the side and wrote in the sand, "My friend slapped me in the face."

They kept walking without talking to each other. Finally, they found water and stopped to rest for the night.



The friend who had been hurt slipped and fell in the water. It was deep and he was close to drowning. The other man rushed to him and saved him. After he was saved, the guy found a rock and engraved "Today my best friend saved my life" on it.

Surprised, his friend said to him, "After I slapped you in the face, you wrote what happened in the sand. Why are you engraving what happened now on the rock?"

Smiling, the second one answered, "When someone is not kind to us, we must write it in the sand in the desert. The winds will clear it and we will forget. When someone does something good for us, we must engrave it on the stone, so the winds will not be able to erase it from our memory." ♦

## NURSERY RHYMES CORNER



### Rainbow Song

*(Sung to: "Hush, little baby")*

Rainbow purple, rainbow blue,  
Rainbow green and yellow too.  
Rainbow orange, rainbow red,  
Rainbow smiling overhead.

Come and count  
The colors with me  
How many colors  
Can you see?

1 - 2 - 3 on down to green  
4 - 5 - 6 colors can be seen!

Rainbow purple, rainbow blue,  
Rainbow green and yellow too.  
Rainbow orange, rainbow red,  
Rainbow smiling overhead.

"Spring is when life's alive in  
everything." Christina Rossetti

### Zim-bam, Zim-bam

*Sung to: "Twinkle, Twinkle  
Little Star"*

Zim-bam, zim-bam,  
zim-bam-bee,  
Rain is falling on the tree.  
Zim-bam, zim-bam,  
zim-bam-by,  
Rain is falling from the sky.  
Zim-bam, zim-bam,  
Zim-bam-boo,  
Rain is falling on us too.

### I am the Sun

I am the Sun,  
shining hot and bright  
*(arms over head)*

When I go to sleep,  
Day turns into night.  
*(rest hands on head)*

When I wake up,  
I stretch and yawn  
*(stretch and yawn)*

And turn the darkness  
into dawn.  
*(arms over head)*

# Mother Goose Across Canada ...

## *Infant Virtual Programming?*

**Timiskaming Shores, Ontario**

***Nathalie Bowen***

*a bilingual Registered Early Childhood Educator working for EarlyON ON y va Timiskaming as an EarlyON ON y va practitioner*

For the last two years, we as educators were given the challenge to think outside the box from traditional in-person programming to strictly virtual. For the most part, most of us including the children adapted well, but what about those babies who were too young to use technology to participate in activities?



*Hello! I live in a small farming community in Northern Ontario, Canada called Temiskaming Shores. In the last few years we have seen a rise in new young families moving to this area either for work or to escape the hustle and bustle of the city life and to enjoy a much slower and less hectic lifestyle. Many of those families have relied on our programs to meet other families with similar interests and children with similar ages.*

I wanted to give a chance to those moms who felt isolated at home with their newborns and toddlers to have some social time, meet other moms that were experiencing the same thing as they were and to come on a virtual platform and do an activity with their little ones and have a chance to meet and get to know us as educators and also to give a chance to those

# Mother Goose Across Canada ...

babies to have some social time as well outside of their families.

We came twice per week to sing songs, some new and some that the moms already knew, sing rhymes and tell stories. On Mondays we would do the program in French and on Tuesdays it was done in English. Sometimes when there weren't many participants online, we had discussions on how they, as well as the little ones, were doing and feeling.

Our Mother Goose program was actually called "Rhythm, Rhymes and Storytime" or



"Rhythmes, comptines et histoire".

We have participants that came from all over our district and even some that were from out of town so we got to meet and reach out to many families near and far.

We have some families that have followed our program since the beginning of COVID up until now.

When we met them, the little ones were only a few months old and now they are busy little toddlers but because they were there from the start, when it came time to move from virtual to in-person again, we weren't strangers to them. Even with our masks on, they recognized our voices from us singing online with them.

*Thank you to the Mother Goose Program for giving us the tools to be able to deliver this program to our families during this very difficult time. ♦*

# Meet the Goose family

**How would you describe yourself as Papa Goose?**

I bring a papa energy to the team, which is welcoming for fathers and the whole family. I deliver a Caribbean flavour to storytime and singalongs, which often includes humour (Old Macdonald had a Farm for example)!

**When was the first time you heard of “Mother Goose”?**

When I joined the Maison Mosaik family four years ago.

**For how long have you been involved with Parent-Child Mother Goose Program?**

For the past several months.



Howard Johnson  
Community Worker -  
Papa en Action  
Montreal

**Is there a certain person who inspired you to work with Mother Goose?**

Krystine Dobbs

**What is your most memorable Mother Goose session and why?**

I made a mistake in singing Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star. Afterwards, I was told this was great because the fathers need to see that they can make the singalongs their own.

**If you could meet someone from a nursery rhyme, who would you choose and why?**

Frosty the Snowman!

**If you had a talk show about nursery rhymes, who would your first 3 guests be?**

Robin, Marie-Lynn, Deserean.

**What is your favourite rhyme? Can you share it with us?**

Zoom zoom zoom  
We're going to the moon  
Zoom zoom zoom  
We're gonna get there soon  
If you want to take a trip  
Travel on my rocket ship  
Zoom zoom zoom  
We're going to the moon  
In 5...4...3...2...1  
BLASTOFF!

# Mother Goose Across Canada and Around the World

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## PARENTS'/GRANDPARENTS' VOICES

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“I am so blessed to have participated in Mother Goose for the past 9 years. I love it! “

*“The Mother Goose program has been a highlight in our week for the last year. It’s so much fun for both me and my daughter to learn songs and rhymes and to sing along. I also found it helpful to create a sense of community in my life as a new mother.”*

“Unbelievably you turned an obstacle into an opportunity!”

*“Thank you so much! A truly wonderful program.”*

“I greatly appreciate having the French and English Mother Goose Zoom sessions. My children always get excited about the familiar rhymes, songs and stories, and I have noticed their language skills improve over time. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity during these challenging times.”

*“Magnifique!”*

“Extraordinaire !”

“My daughter and I look forward to Thursday mornings to see our friends at Zoom Goose! Thank you for this wonderful respite for families during Covid lockdown.”

“Thank you for all the joy and fun you share with us, we are enjoying our time with you so much. “



# The Moon is Round

*... continued from page 1*

- \* Singing together from coast to coast and seeing and hearing from some of the original program creators, the heartfulness of all.
- \* The joyful energy from all, seeing good friends, reconnecting across the years and distance.
- \* Seeing people I have not seen in a long time, plus people I have spoken to but never met in person. I always love hearing the rhymes, songs and especially the stories as they all leaned into the roots of Parent-Child Mother Goose Program.

## **What do participants see in the future?**

- \* Ideas for future events including sharing songs and stories, hearing from a panel of families, hearing more about what is going on in programs across the country, etc.
- \* The event to become an "annual event so that all facilitators of PCMGF across the country can share experiences and learn wonderful songs and rhymes".
- \* Interest in the "history of the beginning of the program, specific areas of program leadership, and getting Celia Lottridge to present her great article about using rhymes."
- \* To have a "mini workshop" (20-30 minutes) attached to the event, to learn something new like how people deal with the pandemic or how families deal with the threat of war. Or something much happier such as summertime fun songs and rhymes.
- \* Sharing "Zoom tips prior to event" and "keeping it intimate so that people can enjoy being able to glance at everyone in the room."

*continued on page 9...*

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... continued from page 8

There is a definite interest and enthusiasm for more regular events to connect facilitators and trainers across Canada. These closing comments pretty well sum it up:

*“Well done! This was a fantastic event. A lot of hard work went into this event, and it shows.”*

*“I think it is great that all the members are volunteers and work so hard. Congratulations!”*

And a comment that everyone could sign under, *“I love in-person, of course, but this was wonderful to see people across the country. “*

*Robin Sales*

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## Parent-Child Mother Goose Program®

Programme la Mere l'Oie pour parents et enfants



# Spring 2022



### Share your program with the rest of the P-CMGP Family!

Write about your program. It brings joy, strengthens the network and creates new energy when you share your stories across Canada and across the world.

We love to include your stories, rhymes, pictures and news.

Please send submissions to :

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