

Mother Goose and the Jewish Library

By Diane Rauchwerger

Description: What is Mother Goose doing in a synagogue or JCC library? The Mother Goose Program, presented to families with infants and toddlers, at Congregation Beth Am, Los Altos Hills, CA, was modeled after a program in the Sunnyvale Public Library. An important component of young children's language development includes rhymes, songs, finger plays and stories. The purpose of the Mother Goose Program at Beth Am was to welcome young families to the synagogue, provide opportunities for them to meet and form relationships with other Jewish families, provide Jewish language development activities and introduce young families to the resources of the Beth Am Library. The presentation at AJL 2007 will cover the following: Why a Mother Goose Program in a synagogue or JCC Library? Who is the target audience? How to present the program Sample resources: Rhymes, songs, finger plays, books, audio tapes.

Diane Levin Rauchwerger has been librarian for Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills, California, since 1990, and is also a children's librarian for the Sunnyvale Public Library. She is author of the Dinosaur series of children's picture books published by Kar-Ben Publishing.