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### French Nursery Rhymes

<https://www.talkinfrench.com/french-nursery-rhymes/8>

Last semester, I wrote about the French nursery rhyme Frère Jacques. I feel that children's songs are a great resource for beginners in a foreign language considering that the small children they are played for are beginning to learn the language as well. I found an article listing five French nursery rhymes. It shows both the French lyrics and the English translations.

#### 1. "Petit escargot"

<https://youtu.be/3Islf7AROIQ>

This one is about a little snail enjoying life. It carries its home on its back and peeks out its head in excitement when it rains. Although I did not understand when I first listened to the song, I understood a few words. I knew sa tête meant its head and I figured maisonette meant small

house. Whether or not it was intended by the writers, I like the point of this song. Imagine being a snail with no arms or legs carrying a shell on your back crawling slowly on the ground. This is a tiny creature in a huge dangerous world, yet it still finds joy in life. The rain soaks the ground it crawls on, yet the snail embraces it. This snail shows that there is always joy to be found in any storm that life throws at us.

2. "Mon petit lapin a bien du chagrin"

<https://youtu.be/CVWWEtYrffE>

This one is about a sad, small rabbit. The narrator is trying to cheer it up so it will jump in its garden again. I think le petit lapin should take a lesson from le petit escargot.

3. "Un éléphant qui se balançait"

<https://youtu.be/Ns92r5TQH3k>

This one is about elephants swinging on a spider's web. I was able to understand the French numbers as more elephants joined the party. This one is my favorite of the five, because it is fun and sounds kind of like a Beach Boys song.

4. "Une souris verte"

[https://youtu.be/2rt2g\\_afiAg](https://youtu.be/2rt2g_afiAg)

This one, unfortunately, is about a green mouse put through terrible abuse. I do not understand why people would teach children a nursery rhyme that makes light of animal cruelty.

5. "Promenons-nous dans les bois"

<https://youtu.be/KrLuJchq294>

This one is about unwise children who play in the woods where a dangerous wolf lives. They look around and find that the wolf is not there, so they play and call out and taunt the wolf. As

the song progresses and the children continue to play and taunt the wolf, the wolf is at home getting dressed. After he puts on his clothes and grabs his rifle, he goes out after the children. The song stops there, leaving the ending to the imagination of the listener. The song teaches the French words for different articles of clothing and serves as a clear cautionary tale.