Red Tricycle

Spozhmai Shahnan

When I was young,
I had a tricycle.
It was fun to ride,
easier than a bicycle,
red with three wheels.
I rode it outside.
I loved my red tricycle.
I miss my ride.

Spozhmai Shahnan is a student at the Family Literacy Program of IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services) in New Haven, CT. She came to the U.S. in 2014 from Afghanistan. She has two young children. She is studying English so she can talk to people in the community. Also, she wants to be able to help her children with their schoolwork when they start school.

Language Practice

1. Consider the prefixes “uni,” “bi,” and “tri.” What do they mean?
2. Beware! English pronunciation is tricky! You pronounce “cycle” differently in different situations. When you combine it with the prefixes bi- or tri-, “cycle” rhymes with pickle. However, when you combine it with “uni,” the “y” sounds like an “i.” How do you pronounce motorcycle?
3. Write and say several sentences using these nouns ending with cycle.
4. Which words rhyme in the poem by Spozhmai Shahnan? Try writing your own poem using some rhyming words. Don’t forget to write a title for your poem.