

Cumbria County Council

Chat Play Share

Rhymes and songs

Hey Diddle Diddle

Hey, diddle, diddle, the cat
and the fiddle

The cow jumped over the
moon

The little dog laughed to see
such fun

And the dish ran away with
the spoon

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/hey-diddle-diddle/>

Birth – 2 years



Sit opposite your baby and sing the song with them. Hold hands and help them clap the rhythm as you sing the rhyme.

Alternatively, sit your child on your knee and rock your body from side to side in time to the rhythm of the words. Move on to hand clapping or knee tapping. This will help reinforce patterns in spoken language.

2-3 years



Talk about the story within the rhyme and make up some actions to go with it. Pretend to play the violin, move your hand up and over to be the cow jumping over the moon. Perhaps do a belly laugh with your shoulders moving up and down and then walk your fingers away from your body to be the dish and the spoon going on their adventure.

3-4 years



Talk about musical instruments and the fact that the violin is also known as a fiddle. Explore the names of other instruments e.g. a trumpet could be called a horn.

Listen to music with your eyes closed and try to name the instruments you can hear.

Chat Play Share...Other ideas you could try....

Share a book together about the moon or going on an adventure.
Chat about the pictures and story. Examples:

- The Adventures Of The Dish And The Spoon by Mini Grey
- Bringing Down the Moon by Jonathan Emmett
- The Baby Who Wouldn't Go to Bed by Helen Cooper
- The Woods by Rob Hodgson
- The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter
- The Treasure Hunt by Nick Butterworth
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen
- Naughty Bus by Jan and Jerry Oke

Bring your stories to life by acting them out or introducing props which engage the senses. Talk about the actions for the story e.g. "I'm going to hop like Peter Rabbit and stop to twitch my nose." Listen to the scrunch of a lettuce and describe the taste of a radish.

Go for a walk and talk about all the local landmarks you pass. When you get home make up a story about the adventures of the dish and the spoon including what you have seen. Draw a story map of the places they went and describe what happened to them.

Have a walk round the house and talk about things that are pairs e.g. socks, shoes and gloves. Then think about things that 'go together' like a knife and fork or a toothbrush and toothpaste. Now have some fun talking about who the toothbrush might run away with and where they might end up!

Introduce positional language, over, under, in, next to. The sheep is next to the hedge or the fox slunk under the gate. Continue to reinforce this language throughout the day to give the words a real life context, e.g. the water is in the bath or teddy is next to the bed.



Play the game, Where's Teddy? Hide teddy and when your child finds it, ask them where it was e.g. in the box or on top of the shelf etc