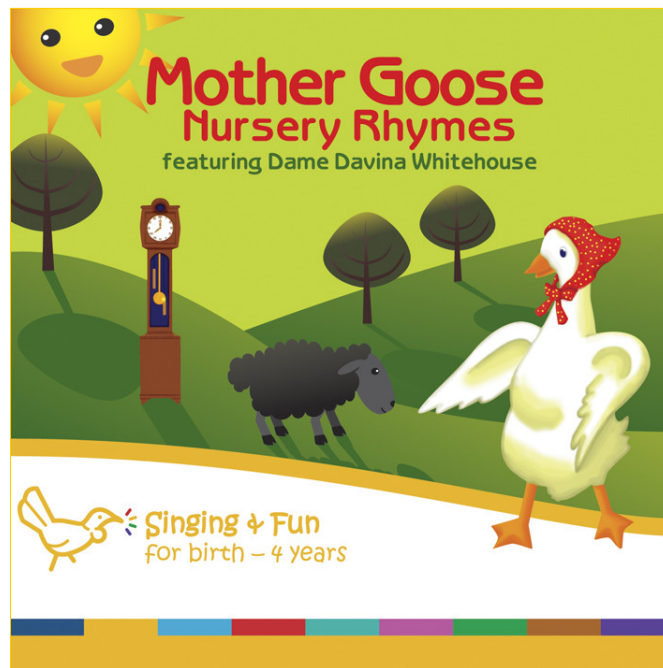




Activity: Singing & Fun
Related Activity: Celebrating Cultures



Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes



Activity Notes

Singing & Fun Activity Notes for *Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes*.

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Activity: Singing & Fun
Related Activity: Celebrating Cultures



Birth to 4 years

Nursery rhymes, of all children's music, are perhaps the only songs universally accepted from babyhood to a child's first days at school. *Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes* is a comprehensive collection of traditional songs and rhymes for singing with our young ones. It is natural to sing & croon as we nurse our babies on our lap or rock them in our arms. As they grow and birthdays are celebrated, everyone enjoys singing a hearty chorus of *Baa Baa Black Sheep* and *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* with the birthday child: and what more fun than playing *Ring-o-Roses*, crashing to the ground on 'we all fall down!'

The 52 Tracks in This Collection

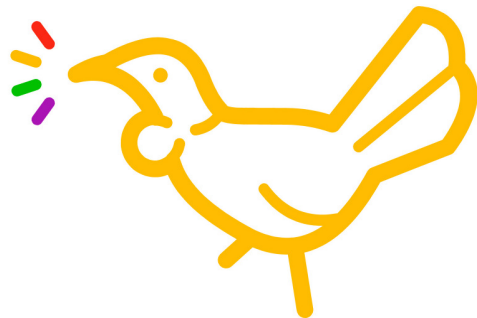
The more positive songs of our heritage feature in this collection. Also, because nursery rhymes are always so short & there are fifty two on this album, it was important to make the listening experience interesting right through to the end. Our key is *variety* of performance. A talented team was gathered, headed by Dame Davina Whitehouse, an esteemed New Zealand actress. Dame Davina was in her 90th year when she played Mother Goose, and we are thrilled that the rich, elderly timbre of her voice tenderly communicates 'great-grandmother' to so many of our young listeners. In her 'flock' of singers we have pleasant male and female voices, plus the sweet young tones of a child. They all take turns to sing and, for additional variety, to recite some rhymes. Enjoy!

Cultural Heritage

Mother Goose is the traditional 'mother of all nursery rhymes' in European culture. Taking infants under her wing, she nurtures them in song & rhyme, passing our heritage on to each new generation. In these notes you'll find, with lyrics and activity ideas, the fascinating history & origins of these verses which also include some treasures traditional to Scotland.

To reinforce this legacy, this album has 'companion' albums, each offering a fresh, new way to enjoy nursery rhymes: look out for *Mother Goose Action Songs* and *Mother Goose Lullabies*. Thank you for dedicating time to gift our precious heritage to children; these old songs and rhymes are a treasure.

On our website you will find:
* More *Singing & Fun* activity resources
* Our full Activity Range
* Free *Activity Notes* for many albums
* Sound-clips * Articles of interest
* Links to Music Download sites
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For your reference, this document totals 14 pages.

Singing & Fun Activity Notes for *Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes*.

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Activity: Singing & Fun
Related Activity: Celebrating Cultures



Mother Goose

Mother Goose, Mother Goose, Mother Goose am I
Watching over the nursery, flying through the sky
I'll tell to you a verse or two, and sing a lullaby
Mother Goose, Mother Goose, Mother Goose am I

It's Raining Its Pouring

It's raining it's pouring the old man's snoring
Bumped his head on the end of the bed
And couldn't get up in the morning
Rain on the green grass, rain on the tree
Rain on the house-top, but not on me
Rain, rain, go away, come again another day!

Girls & Boys Come Out to Play!

Girls and boys, come out to play!
The moon doth shine as bright as day
Leave your supper, and leave your sleep
And join your playfellows in the street
Come with a whoop, come with a call
Come with a good will or not at all
Up the ladder and down the wall
A halfpenny roll will serve us all
You find milk and I'll find flour
And we'll have pudding in half an hour

How Many Days?

How many days has my baby to play?
Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday
Wednesday Thursday Friday,
Saturday Sunday Monday!

Track 1

Origins - This is a new rhyme, written with gratitude to Dame Davina Whitehouse, who plays Mother Goose on the recording.

Activity - Take on the character, gesturing wing movements with your arms or a goose puppet.

Track 2

Origins - The first verse was also chanted as "It's raining, it's pouring, there's pepper in the box, and all the little ladies are holding up their frocks". The lines starting with "Rain..." are separate, very old, traditional verses linked to the theme. Many versions of the last line exist, such as "Rain, rain, go to Spain..."

Activity - Chant these with children when it's too wet to go outside.

Track 3

Origins - Possibly in the 1600's. Children would call each other to street-games at dusk, after the days' work.

Activity - Parent's could try "girls & boys go out to play" of a summer evening!



Track 4

Origins - Oral tradition. Known to have been published in England in 1805.

Activity - Use this rhyme to introduce baby to the days of the week.



Activity: Singing & Fun
Related Activity: Celebrating Cultures



Ring-o-Roses

Ring-a-ring o' roses, a pocket full of posies
A-tishoo! A-tishoo! - we all fall down.

The sheep's in the meadow, the cow's in the corn
A-tishoo! A-tishoo! - we all get up again!

Track 5

Origins - Possibly the time of the Great Plague, though not all researchers think so, as some lines are earlier.

Activity - Circle around, holding hands or moving freely, then fall to the floor on "all fall down." Feel free to make up your own words in the "get up again" section, as we did.

1,2, Buckle my Shoe

1, 2 buckle my shoe, 3, 4 open the door
5, 6 pick up sticks, 7, 8 lay them straight
9, 10 a good fat hen, 11, 12 - I hope you're well
13, 14 draw the curtain, 15, 16 maid's in the kitchen
17, 18 she's in waiting, 19, 20 my stomach's empty!

Track 6

Origins - As with many nursery rhymes, evidence of their existence was written around 17th - 19th C, when books were becoming more readily available. However the oral traditions are often older.

Activity - Chant this to help children learn counting. Some more modern versions say "my plate's empty".

Hey Diddle Diddle

Hey! diddle, diddle, the cat and the fiddle
The cow jumped over the moon
The little dog laughed to see such sport
And the dish ran away with the spoon

Track 7

Origins - First written record is mid 1500's. A nonsense song, though some researchers read hidden meaning into it.

Activity - Sing to stimulate children's creativity and develop their imagination.

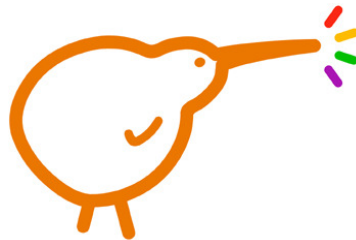
Baa Baa Black Sheep

Baa baa black sheep have you any wool?
Yes sir yes sir three bags full
One for the master and one for the dame
And one for the little boy who lives down the lane

Track 8

Origins - According to *The Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes*, the words have scarcely altered in 200 years. "... the division of the bags is said to refer to the export tax on wool imposed in 1275".

Activity - Clap or sing it with a puppet or soft toy sheep.



Find more Celebrating Cultures resources
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Activity: Singing & Fun
Related Activity: Celebrating Cultures



Mary had a Little Lamb

Mary had a little lamb, its fleece was white as snow
And everywhere that Mary went the lamb was sure to go
It followed her to school one day, which was against the rule
It made the children laugh and play to see a lamb at school
And so the teacher turned it out, but still it lingered near
And waited patiently about till Mary did appear
Why does the lamb love Mary so? the eager children cry
Why, Mary loves the lamb, you know, the teacher did reply

Track 9

Origins - An American rhyme, written in 1788.

Activity - Fun to sing with puppets or soft toy lamb.

Little Bo Peep

Little Bo-peep has lost her sheep and doesn't know where to find them
Leave them alone and they will come home, wagging their tails behind them
Little Bo-peep fell fast asleep and dreamed she heard them bleating
But when she awoke, she found it a joke, for they were still a-fleeing
Then she took up her little crook, determined for to find them. She found them
indeed, but it made her heart bleed, for they'd left their tails behind them
It happened one day, as Bo-Peep did stray into a meadow hard by
There she espied their tails side by side, all hung out to dry
She heaved a sigh, & wiped her eye, & over hillocks went rambling. And tried
what she could, as a shepherdess should, to tack again each to it's lambkin

Track 10

Origins - This rhyme appeared in the 19th century.

Activity - Could also read as a "story" to the young.

Pussycat Pussycat

Pussycat, pussycat where have you been?
I've been up to London to visit the Queen
Pussycat, pussycat what did you there?
I frightened a little mouse under her chair!



Track 11

Origins - The cat may've belonged to Queen Elizabeth Tudor, and the mouse verse is attributed to Queen Victoria.

Activity - Children enjoy the onomatopoeia of "pussycat, pussycat", and relate to having pets. To exercise creativity, ask the questions of a child pretending to be a cat. The child can then answer in any way that appeals.



Activity: Singing & Fun
Related Activity: Celebrating Cultures



I Love Little Pussy

I love little pussy, her coat is so warm
And if I don't hurt her, she'll do me no harm
I will not pull her tail or drive her away
But pussy and I very gently will play.

Track 12

Origins - An American verse first published in 1830.

Activity - Use this song to foster the virtue of gentleness as young children relate to cats.

This Little Piggy

This little piggy went to market. This little piggy stayed at home
This little piggy had roast beef. And this little piggy had none
And *this* little piggy went "Wee, wee, wee, wee" all the way home!

Track 13

Origins - This little finger & toe rhyme has been popular over several centuries.

Activity - Tweak baby's toes as you chant. On "wee, wee..." run your fingers up to tickle baby's armpits.

O Where Has my Little Dog Gone?

Oh where oh where has my little dog gone?
Oh where, oh where can he be?
With his ears cut short, and his ears cut long
Oh where oh where is he?

Track 14

Origins - Originally with several verses, and composed for adults, by Septimus Winner (1826 - 1902).

Activity - Though a little sad, children relate sympathetically to the plight of a lost dog! Try playing a hide-and-seek game, hiding a toy dog, singing the song, then "finding" it to the child's delight.

Hickory Hickory Dock

Hickory dickory dock, the mouse ran up the clock
The clock struck one, the mouse ran down
Hickory dickory dock

Hickory dickory dare, the pig flew up in the air.
The man in brown soon brought him down
Hickory dickory dare

Track 15

Origins - A counting rhyme in shepherd's circles.

Activity - The first verse can be extended thus: ... "the clock struck two" (clap twice)... and so on, counting up to five. Sing along with the instrumental verse in that fashion.

Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall
All the King's horses and all the King's men
Couldn't put Humpty together again

Track 16

Origins - An ancient rhyme appearing in many European languages. Folklore has it that Humpty Dumpty was a cannon, but if so, the cannon may well have been named after the already popular verse.

Activity - Children love to play a game with a soft toy Humpty on the child's head, letting it fall at the appropriate time.



Activity: Singing & Fun
Related Activity: Celebrating Cultures



There was a Crooked Man

There was a crooked man and he walked a crooked mile
He found a crooked sixpence upon a crooked stile
He bought a crooked cat, which caught a crooked mouse
And they all lived together in a crooked little house

Track 17

Origins - A nonsense rhyme of the 19th century.

Activity - Children will enjoy drawing the scene!

Jack & Jill

Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water
Jack fell down and broke his crown, and Jill came tumbling after
Up Jack got, and home did trot, as fast as he could caper
Went to bed to mend his head with vinegar and brown paper

Track 18

Origins - Possibly early 17th C, 2nd verse around 19th C, when a 15 verse version appeared in pantomime. One claim is that Jack & Jill are markings on the moon, and many romantic connections have evolved re the names. Vinegar & brown paper maybe a folk remedy for headache.

Activity - Play "roly-poly", rolling down a grassy bank.

Jack be Nimble

Jack be nimble, Jack be quick,
Jack jump over the candlestick!

Track 19

Origins - A new-year game: good luck ensued if your jump didn't snuff the flame.

Activity - Jump over a candle not alight. Use names - e.g. "Ruby be nimble..."

Old King Cole

Old King Cole was a merry old soul and a merry old soul was he
He called for his pipe and he called for his bowl
And he called for his fiddlers three
Now every fiddler had a fine fiddle, and a very fine fiddle had he
Twee, tweedle dee, tweedle dee went the fiddlers "Merry men are we"
There's none so fair as can compare with King Cole & his fiddlers three!

Track 20

Origins - It is thought that "king" Cole was a very wealthy clothier who lived around 16thC.

Activity - Mime playing the fiddle, or play the instrument game; 'Old King Cole Was a Tolerant Soul' from *Virtues in Me*, by Radha & the Kiwi Kids, (Universal Children's Audio).

Ride a Cock-Horse

Ride a cock-horse to Banbury cross,
To see a fine lady upon a white horse
Rings on her fingers and bells on her toes
She shall have music wherever she goes

Track 21

Origins - 15th C: bells were worn on the end of the long, pointed shoes. The 'goodly cross' at Banbury was destroyed at the turn of the 16th C. A 'Cock-horse' is a proud, high-spirited horse, and the extra coach-horse attached when going up a hill. There are several opinions as to who the lady was.

Activity - Chant as you bounce baby up & down on your knee - bells in hand?



Activity: Singing & Fun
Related Activity: Celebrating Cultures



What's Your Name?

What's your name?	"Pudden Tame"
What's your other?	"Bread and butter"
Where do you live?	"In a sieve"
What's your number?	"Cucumber"

Track 22

Origins - Possibly a riddle, though more recently use as a call and response nonsense rhyme.

Activity - Children still chant this rhyme, though often altered. Encourage them to make up their own versions!

Wee Willie Winkie

Wee Willie Winkie runs through the town
Upstairs and downstairs in his nightgown
Rapping at the window, crying through the lock
"Are the children all in bed? - it's past eight o'clock".

Track 23

Origins - by William Miller (1810 - 72).

Activity - Sing & be "Willie Winkie" checking if children are in bed - in which case you might want to say "It's past seven o'clock" etc

The Owl & the Pussycat

The owl and the pussycat went to sea in a beautiful pea-green boat.
They took some honey and plenty of money, wrapped up in a five-pound note
The owl looked up to the stars above and sang to a small guitar
Oh lovely Pussy, oh pussy my love, what a beautiful pussy you are, you are
What a beautiful pussy you are!
Pussy said to the owl 'You elegant fowl - how charmingly sweet you sing!
O let us be married! Too long we have tarried. But what shall we do for a ring?
They sailed away for a year and a day to the land where the Bon-tree grows
And there in a wood a piggy-wig stood with a ring at the end of his nose his nose
With a ring at the end of his nose!
'Dear pig are you willing to sell for one shilling, your ring?'. Said the Piggy 'I will"
So they took it away and were married next day by the turkey who lives on the hill
They dined on mince, and slices of quince, which they ate with a runcible spoon
And hand in hand on the edge of the sand, they danced by the light of the moon
The moon, they danced by the light of the moon.

Track 24

Origins - A popular nonsense song by Edward Lear (1812-1888). The "runcible spoon" is a word created by the author- no doubt for its rich sound and imaginative appeal!

Activity - Read it, or play the recording of this poem to children to stimulate their imaginations.

Hickety Pickety My Black Hen

Hickety, pickety, my black hen, she lays eggs for gentlemen
Gentlemen come every day to see what my black hen doth lay
One for sorrow, two for joy, three for a girl, four for a boy
Five for silver, six for gold, seven for a secret never to be told
Hickety, pickety, my black hen, she lays eggs for gentlemen
Sometimes nine and sometimes ten, hickety pickety my black hen

Track 25

Origins - The "sometimes nine & sometimes ten" verse may be a contemporary addition. The section "One for sorrow..." is from "To the Magpie" - another traditional rhyme.

Activity - Singing this as you count eggs - from the supermarket or your own hen house.



Activity: Singing & Fun
Related Activity: Celebrating Cultures



Cackle, Cackle Mother Goose

Cackle, cackle Mother Goose, have you any feathers loose?
Truly have I pretty fellow, half enough to fill a pillow
Here are quills - take one or two, and down to make a bed for you

Track 26

Origins - Published in the early 1900's.

Activity - Chant as you tuck children under a feather quilt!

Old Mother Goose

Old Mother Goose, when she wanted to wander
Would ride through the air - on a very fine gander
Old Mother Goose, the goose saddled soon
Mounting its back, flew up to the moon!

Track 27

Origins - First story of the goose that laid the golden egg.

Activity - Lift baby in the air in appropriate sections.

Two Little Dickie Birds

Two little Dickie-birds sitting on a wall
One named Peter, one named Paul
Fly away Peter, fly away Paul.
Come back Peter, come back Paul

Track 28

Origins - The birds' names, originally Jack & Jill, were changed around the 1700's to Biblical names.

Activity - Play the game as parents have done for centuries, sticking little pieces of paper to your fingers.

Spring is Sprung

Spring is sprung. The grass is riz.
I wonder where the birdies is?
The little bird is on the wing - ain't that absurd?
The little wing is on the bird!

Track 29

Origins - We are not sure from where this ditty "sprung"! If you know we'd love to hear from you!

Activity - People enjoy going overboard on this one - try a New York accent, with "bird" becoming "boird"!

A Wise Old Owl

A wise old owl sat in an oak.
The more he heard the less he spoke
The less he spoke the more he heard.
Why aren't we all like that wise old bird?

Track 30

Origins - A rhyme to teach values - though it would seem more at an adult level of comprehension.

Activity - Play "wise old owl" listening games with the children to develop their aural skills.





Activity: Singing & Fun
Related Activity: Celebrating Cultures



Pat-a-Cake

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man
Bake me a cake just as fast as you can
Pat it and prick it, and mark it with T
And put it in the oven for Tommy and me

Track 31

Origins - Known and used as a finger-play as early as the late 1600s

Activity - Ideal as a finger-play or action song. Clap on "pat-a-cake", then mime the actions of baking a cake.

Pease Porridge Hot

Pease porridge hot, pease porridge cold
Pease porridge in the pot nine days old
Some like it hot, some like it cold
Some like it in the pot nine days old!

Track 32

Origins - An interactive hand-clapping rhyme also chanted while rubbing hands together to get warm.

Activity - Keep the tradition alive and play as above.

I Had a Little Nut Tree

I had a little nut tree, nothing would it bear
But a silver nutmeg and a golden pear.
The King of Spain's daughter came to visit me
And all for the sake of my little nut tree.
I skipped over the ocean, I danced over the sea
And all the birds in the air couldn't catch me.

Track 33

Origins - Known in Shakespearean times.

Activity - Sing to stimulate the imagination - the words are "visual".

Peter Piper

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled pepper
A peck of pickled pepper Peter Piper picked
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled pepper
Where's the peck of pickled pepper Peter Piper picked?

Track 34

Origins - A tongue-twister of old. Davina, who plays Mother Goose on this recording, recalls having to recite this verse as vocal training during her time at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in Britain.

Activity - See how fast you can recite it! Children enjoy the challenge and the humour when mistakes are made.

Polly Put the Kettle On

Polly, put the kettle on. Polly put the kettle on
Polly put the kettle on - we'll all have tea
Sukey, take it off again. Sukey, take it off again
Sukey, take it off again - they've all gone away

Track 35

Origins - - An old favourite in country circles. "Sukey" is a form of "Susan"

Activity - Fun to role-play as you sing using a child's tea-set. Works especially well with two children.



Activity: Singing & Fun
Related Activity: Celebrating Cultures



Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater Track 36

Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater had a wife and couldn't keep her
He put her in a pumpkin shell and then he kept her very well
Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater had another and didn't love her
Peter learned to read & spell and then he loved her very well

Origins - Oral tradition. Like many nursery rhymes, first published in the first quarter of the 1800's.

Activity - One parent suggested this verse might help her son enjoy eating pumpkin! Others associate it with Halloween. As with many of these old rhymes, let it stimulate children's imaginations.



Find more 'Developing Imagination' activity resources on our website:
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Hot Cross Buns

Hot cross buns. Hot cross buns
One a penny two a penny hot cross buns
If you've got no daughters give them to your sons
One a penny two a penny hot cross buns
Hot cross buns, hot cross buns
One a penny two a penny hot cross buns
One a penny poker, two a penny tongs
Three a penny fire shovel - Hot cross buns!

Track 37

Origins - Formerly a street-cry, esp. on Good Friday, the cross symbolising that on which Jesus was crucified.

Activity - Children may appreciate hearing of the origins of hot cross buns as well as eating them! We sing the song mainly as a round, which can be a little challenging to sing in tune, considering that the note on "sons" is a second, sung against the tonic.

Bobby Shaftoe

Bobby Shaftoe's gone to sea, silver buckles at his knee
He'll come back and marry me - bonny Bobby Shaftoe!
Bobby Shaftoe's bright & fair, combing down his yellow hair
He's my love for evermore - bonny Bobby Shaftoe
Bobby Shaftoe's tall & slim. He's always dressed so neat & trim
The ladies they all look at him - bonny Bobby Shaftoe

Track 38

Origins - The original Bobby Shaftoe lived in Wicklow early in the 1700s. Later in the century the song was sung in support of Robert Shaftoe, a handsome parliamentary candidate. "Bonny" means handsome or beautiful.

Activity - Nice to folk- dance to: hold hands and move in a circle, clapping or acting the words out in places.

Cobbler Cobbler

Cobbler, cobbler, mend my shoe. Get it done by half past two
Stitch it up, and stitch it down, then I'll give you half a crown

Track 39

Origins - May've been used in the game "hunt the slipper."
Activity - Clap & chant, raising hands up & down 'stitching'



Activity: Singing & Fun
Related Activity: Celebrating Cultures



Dance to Your Daddy

Dance to your daddy, my bonnie laddie
Dance to your daddy, my bonnie lamb
You will have a fishy in a little dishy
You will have a fishy when the boat comes in
Dance to your daddy, my bonnie laddie
Dance to your daddy, my bonnie lamb
You'll have an apple, you will have a plum
You'll have a rattle-basket when your daddy's home

Track 40

Origins - An affectionate song, popular in Scotland. The traditional words are "You shall have..."

Activity - Too challenging for a youngster to sing, but excellent to listen to, and to dance and clap. Try singing it in anticipation of your own little one's father coming home.

Find more 'Dancing & Moving'
activity resources on our website:
www.ucamusic.com



Diddle Diddle Dumpling

Diddle Diddle Dumpling my son John
Went to bed with his trousers on
One shoe off and one shoe on
Diddle Diddle Dumpling my son John!

Track 41

Origins - Told to poets Wordsworth, Keats and others after a humorous incident involving Charles Lamb.

Activity - Sometimes chanted as parents prepare sleepy children for bed.

Little Boy Blue

Little Boy Blue, come blow your horn
The sheep's in the meadow, the cow's in the corn
Where is the boy who looks after the sheep?
He's under a haystack fast asleep.
Will you wake him? No not I, for if I do, he's sure to cry.

Track 42

Origins - May have sprung from the lines in Shakespeare's King Lear: "Sleepest or wakest thou jolly shepherd?"

Activity - In a group, cover a willing "boy blue" with a blue cloth, then move about singing until it's time to "discover" the hidden child. Pre-school children especially like to play such hiding games

There was an Old Woman

There was an old woman lived under the hill
And if she's not gone she lives there still
Baked apples she sold, and cranberry pies
And she's the old woman that never told lies

Track 43

Origins - A common joke form in the 17th century.

Activity - Enjoy drawing a picture inspired by this rhyme.



Activity: Singing & Fun
Related Activity: Celebrating Cultures



My Bonnie

My bonnie lies over the ocean. My bonnie lies over the sea,
My bonnie lies over the ocean. Oh bring back my bonnie to me
Bring back, bring back, oh bring back my bonnie to me, to me
Bring back, bring back, oh bring back my bonnie to me.
Oh blow ye waves over the ocean. Oh blow ye waves over the sea...

Track 44

Origins - Sung in Scotland of Bonny Prince Charlie.
Activity - Wistful mood suits well to sing as a lullaby or rocking song.

Hush Little Baby

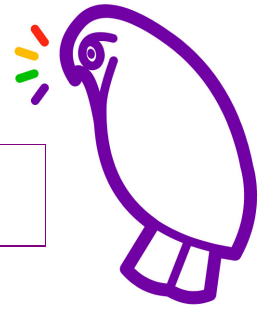
Hush little baby don't say a word
Daddy's gonna buy you a mockingbird
And if that mocking bird don't sing
Daddy's gonna buy you a diamond ring
And if that diamond ring turns to brass
Daddy's gonna buy you a looking-glass
And if that looking-glass gets broke
Daddy's gonna buy you a billy-goat
And if that billy goat runs away
Daddy's gonna buy you another today
And if another can't be found
You'll still be the sweetest little baby in town

Track 45

Origins - Thought to be American. Several versions extend to many lines! The "mockingbird" refers to various birds allied or similar to the blue mockingbird of Mexico and the mimic *Atrichornis rufescens* of Australia.

Activity - Sing as a lullaby.
A beautiful instrumental version of this song is on the UCA recording 'Rest Time'.

Find more 'Rest & Relaxation' resources on our website:
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Bye Baby Bunting

Bye baby bunting, Daddy's gone a-hunting
Gone to get a rabbit skin to wrap bye baby bunting in

Track 46

Origins - A favourite song with nannies - "bunting" being a term of endearment.

Activity - Sing as a lullaby when waiting for Dad to come home? Pretend the child's blanket is the rabbit skin.

Someone Came Knocking

Someone came knocking at my wee, small door
Someone came knocking I'm sure, sure, sure
I listened, I opened, I looked to left and right
But nought there was a-stirring in the still, dark night
Only the busy beetle tap-tapping in the wall
Only from the forest the screech-owl's call
Only the cricket whistling while the dewdrops fall
So I know not who came knocking - at all, at all, at all.

Track 47

Origins - A poem popularly taught in New Zealand primary schools in the 1950s - it is included in this collection to enhance the mood and effect of the final restful section of the recording.

Activity - Recite in a warm, mysterious voice - not scary. Great as a "listening" game or as a visualisation to stimulate children's imaginations.



Activity: Singing & Fun
Related Activity: Celebrating Cultures



Rock-a-Bye Baby

Rock-a-bye baby on the tree top
When the wind blows the cradle will rock
When the bough breaks, the cradle will fall
Down will come baby, cradle and all.

Track 48

Origins - Probably English but popularised in America by an early settler, a passenger on the Mayflower, who was intrigued by the Red Indian practice of hanging a birch-bark cradle on a branch.
Activity - Sing as a lullaby to rock baby to sleep.

If All the World

If all the world were apple pie
And all the sea were ink
And all the trees were bread and cheese
What should we have to drink?

Track 49

Origins - Published in 1641 and loved in the time of Charles 1st as an "ingenious conceit".
Activity - Older children may enjoy the mystery, reflecting and adding new lines as they settle for sleep.

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Row, row, row your boat gently down the stream
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily life is but a dream

Track 50

Origins - Not sure... If any visitors to our website know, we'd like to hear from you.
Today - Children love to sit on the floor opposite another, and "row" holding hands and rocking backwards and forwards. Alternatively, rock baby to and fro on your knee as you sing.

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle little star how I wonder what you are
Up above the world so high - like a diamond in the sky
Twinkle, twinkle little star how I wonder what you are

Track 51

Origins - Written as 5 verses by Jane Taylor (1783-1824) The popular tune was composed by Mozart.
Activity - Sing this beautiful lullaby to nurture the spiritual sentiment of wonder in the young.

I See the Moon

I see the moon, and the moon sees me
God bless the moon, and God bless me

Track 52

Origins - Popular nursery blessing as the moon shines through the window at bedtime. We are not aware of traditional music for this rhyme, so this melody was especially written by Radha Sahar.
Activity - A gentle, informal blessing-cum-affirmation for children as they settle into sleep.

