

Cumbria County Council
Chat Play Share
Rhymes and songs

Dingle Dangle Scarecrow

When all the cows were sleeping and the sun had gone to bed, up jumped the scarecrow and this is what he said...

Chorus

I'm a dingle, dangle scarecrow with a floppy floppy hat. I can shake by arms like this, I can shake my feet like that.

(further verses overleaf)

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/dingle-dangle-scarecrow/>

Birth – 2 years



Sing the song to your child and shake your head when it gets to that part (you could wear a floppy hat if you have one!). See if your child follows you with their eyes as you shake your head or starts to join in.

Put on a hat and pull it down over your eyes. As you move it back up say 'peekaboo'. Vary the time you leave your baby to wait and see if they start to anticipate the 'boo'.

2-3 years



As you sing the song with your child add in some actions. After practising, encourage your child to listen carefully and jump up from the floor when you sing 'jumped up'. Vary your singing speed or add a pause and see if they can still jump up at the right time.

Find a couple of hats. If you change the song to describe one of your hats (e.g. woolly hat) can your child find it and put it on?

3-4 years



As you sing the song with your child add in some actions and adjust the volume for the different verses. See if your child can sing loudly and quietly following your instructions.

Have fun altering the song, see if your child notices and makes up new actions. For example: 'I can...stamp my feet like this, I can...turn around like that'.

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

Other verses...

When all the hens were roosting and the moon behind a cloud, up jumped the scarecrow and shouted very loud ... (sing the chorus loudly).

When dogs were in their kennels and doves were in their loft, up jumped the scarecrow and whispered very soft... (sing the chorus quietly).

Share a story together about scarecrows/farms and chat about the pictures and story. Encourage your child to make the noises of any animals in the story. Examples of stories:

- The Scarecrow's Wedding by Julia Donaldson
- The Scarecrow's Hat by Ken Brown
- Scarecrow's Secret by Heather Amery and Stephen Cartwright
- On the Farm by Axel Scheffler
- Farmyard Hullabaloo by Giles Andreae and David Wojtowycz
- Spot goes to the Farm by Eric Hill

Electronic versions of stories can also often be found online. Some children prefer information books to stories and there are lots about farm animals or child friendly information can be found on-line.

If your child has never seen a scarecrow before, talk about what they are made from and why they are put in the fields to scare the birds or show them some pictures. Lots of places have scarecrow festivals now, perhaps you could visit if there is one local to you and talk together about what you see?

Draw round your child on a big piece of paper or old piece of clean cardboard packaging. Talk to your child about what to dress your 'scarecrow' in. Following their suggestions, can they listen to your instructions and collect items of clothes to bring back and lie on the drawing until he/she is fully dressed?



Play a scarecrow game outside...Pretend to be a scarecrow and stand very still with your eyes closed. Encourage your child to try and quietly approach and take a toy from by your feet. If you hear them, open your eyes and chase after them. Can older children be the scarecrow and listen very carefully for you?