

Cumbria County Council
Chat Play Share
Rhymes and songs

Oh, the grand old Duke of York
he had 10,000 men

He marched them up to the top
of the hill

And he marched them down
again

And when they were up, they
were up

And when they were down, they
were down

And when they were only
halfway up, they were neither
up nor down

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/grand-old-duke-york/>

Birth – 2 years



Hold your baby in your arms as you sing the song with them.

You can march along in time to the rhyme carrying your baby. Sing loudly, smile and make eye contact, this is a lively, energetic song.

Lift your baby up when the words say “up” and bring them down to the word “down”.

2-3 years



Toddlers can march along with you as you sing the song with them. Show them how to march by swinging their arms and stamping their feet. Show them how to stamp their feet in time to the rhyme. Crouch down and reach up to match the words of the rhyme. If you can, go outside and find a hill to march up singing as you go.

3-4 years



This is an active rhyme so make sure you have plenty of space around you. It is fun to do this outside.

Show your child how to stand tall and straight ready to march. See if they can stamp and clap in time, keeping to the beat of the rhyme. This is an important skill for children to learn. Encourage them to make up actions for themselves as they learn to sing the rhyme.

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

Share a book together. Chat about the pictures and story. Examples of books about drumming:

- ❖ I Want to Be a Drummer! by Mark Powers
- ❖ The Drum by Ken Wilson-Max
- ❖ Pete the Cat: The Petes Go Marching by James Dean
- ❖ Our marching band by Lloyd Moss
- ❖ The Happy Hedgehog Band by Waddell Martin

Use saucepans and wooden or metal spoons as drums and beaters. Depending on the age of your child, you could try:

- Slowly bang your saucepan. When you stop see if your baby or toddler makes eye contact with you. Repeat this and notice if they look at you when you stop the sound. Give them a pan and they can bang their drum.
- Older children may be able to bang their drum in time as you march to the song. Ask them to bang their drum slowly and then speed up getting faster.
- When you sing “to the top of the hill” show your child how to bang their drum harder to make it louder. Move your body up as well.
- When you sing “march them down again” show your child how to hit their drum more softly to make it quieter. Introduce the words slow, quickly, soft, quiet, hard, and loud. Use these words to give instructions to your child as they are banging their drum.
- Sit opposite your child and notice if they can copy you as you bang different rhythms on the pans. Tell them that you will now try to copy them.
- Use your pans and spoons to see if there are any different sounds you can make. What does it sound like when you hit the handle of the pan or bang 2 spoons together? What words would you use to describe these new sounds?
- By having a go at these activities your child is learning skills of listening, copying, following rhythms and co-ordinating movements. You could build on these new skills and take them outside to march and bang their drums. Hopefully you may be able to find a hill to march up and down!

