

Cumbria County Council
Chat Play Share
Rhymes and songs

Teddy Bears' Picnic

If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise.

If you go down to the woods today, you'd better go in disguise.

For every bear that ever there was will gather there for certain because today's the day the teddy bears have their picnic.

Music and song lyrics readily available on-line

Birth – 2 years



Enjoy singing the song with your child. Hold up a teddy and move it around as you sing. See if your baby starts to follow the teddy with their eyes. Do they look for the teddy if you hide it behind your back?

Play 'Round and round the garden' (words overleaf) with your child. Pause before tickling to see if they start to show anticipation of what's coming next.

2-3 years



After singing 'Teddy Bears' Picnic' together. Use the rhyme 'Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear' (words over page) as a game to focus on following instructions. As you say the rhyme can your child listen and add in actions to match your words? You may need to join in the first time. Can you add in your own different verses (or lots more versions are available online)?

3-4 years



Playing games is a good way to develop attention and listening skills. Play 'Kim's game' with teddies/soft toys. Sit a group of teddies in a line and talk about them with your child. Use words to describe their size, shape, colour, texture. Ask your child to close their eyes whilst you remove a teddy. Can they work out who is missing? More teddies can be added as they get older.

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

Additional rhymes:

'Round and round the garden like a teddy bear. One step, two steps...tickly under there'. Use your hand to trace a circle on your child's hand/foot/tummy. Then make the steps with your fingers as you count before tickling your child.

'Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn around. Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the ground. Teddy bear, teddy bear, reach up high. Teddy bear, teddy bear, reach the sky. Teddy bear, teddy bear reach down low. Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch your toe'. Can your child follow the instructions as you say the rhyme?

Share a story together about a teddy or a bear. Chat about the pictures and story. Could you visit the local library together to find a book?

Examples of stories:

- Where's my teddy by Jez Alborough
- That's not my teddy by Fiona Watt
- Can't you sleep little bear by Martin Waddell
- Brown bear, brown bear by Eric Carle
- We're going on a bear hunt by Michael Rosen
- When the teddy bears came by Martin Waddell

If you have an old pan could you make a teddy bear dinner outside? Add some water and challenge your child to find certain things to add to the soup, for example: '5 small stones, 3 dandelions'. Use this time to teach them names of items they might not know e.g. dandelion, acorn, daisy, conker, pebble. Stir it up and pretend to feed teddy.



If you are ever walking in the woods encourage your child to look out for the bears. Can they follow instructions to look in certain places? Chat together about what you can see, smell and hear. Hide a bear for them to find.



After singing the song, role-play having a teddy bears' picnic with your child (or have an actual picnic). Model how to ask each teddy what they would like and encourage your child to do the same. This is a good chance to model turn-taking and using 'please/ thank you'.