

Cumbria County Council
Chat Play Share
Rhymes and songs

Tiny Tim (I had a little turtle)

I had a little turtle, his name was Tiny Tim.

I put him in the bathtub to see if he could swim.

He drank up all the water, he ate a bar of soap.

And now he's lying in his bed with bubbles in his throat.

Bubble, bubble, bubble,

Bubble, bubble, bubble,

Bubble, bubble, bubble,

Bubble, bubble, pop!

<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/songs-and-rhymes/tiny-tim-i-have-a-little-turtle>

Birth – 2 years



Enjoy singing the song with your child at bath time. Use your hand or a bath toy turtle to act out the song. As you say 'bubble, bubble' gradually move your hands further apart as though the bubble is growing, then clap them together as you say 'pop!' If your child has started to use single words encourage them to join in 'pop!'



2-3 years



Have fun singing the song together. Can you make up some actions to go with the different parts of the song? After singing several times, see if your child can remember the actions and add them in at the right time whilst you just sing.

Talk about fish also living under the sea. Make funny fish faces together in front of the mirror to exercise your mouth muscles.

3-4 years



Once your child knows the song start to play around with it and see if they notice? Change the turtles name or vary what he ate/drank. Encourage your child to listen carefully and tell you what was different as this is a good way to develop listening and attention skills. You could also try missing out a word to see if your child can add it back in. Make sure you pause to give them time to think and respond if you miss a word.

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

Share a story together about turtles or other sea creatures and chat about the pictures and story. Examples of stories:

- One tiny turtle by Nicola Davies
- I'll follow the moon by Stephanie Lisa Tara
- The adventures of Olive the sea turtle by Martin Stelfox and Danielle Gravon
- Tiddler by Julia Donaldson
- Commotion in the ocean by Giles Andrae
- Someone's swallowed Stanley by Sarah Roberts
- Mister seahorse by Eric Carle
- Ocean (a peek-through picture book) by Britta Teckentrup



Some children prefer to look at information books and there are many available about sea life. Could you look for one in your local library?

For older children who are interested in how to help look after turtles and our oceans you could look together at information on-line. Check information before sharing, then show your child some images and read out key facts. Talk to your child about the importance of looking after our oceans and the creatures who live in it.

Suggested website for information: National Geographic Kids

<https://www.natgeokids.com/nz/discover/animals/sea-life/turtle-facts/>

Bubble Play Ideas:



Blow bubbles for your baby. When you stop see if they show you they would like more, by reaching, gesturing, making a sound or saying 'more'. Blow more bubbles and keep pausing so they can request more. Say 'more bubbles' before you start again.

Blow bubbles for your child. Encourage them to jump around saying 'pop, pop, pop' as they try to burst the bubbles. Older children could say 'bubble, bubble' as they jump around and only add 'pop' when they burst a bubble!

Put some bubbly water (or a little milk) in a small bowl. Show your child how to blow through a paper straw to make bubbles. Can they make enough bubbles to reach the top of the bowl? Blowing through a straw is good for developing muscles for talking!