

Cumbria County Council

Chat Play Share

Rhymes and songs

Pat-a-cake

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake,
baker's man

Bake me a cake as fast as
you can

Pat it and prick it and mark it
with B

And put it in the oven for
baby and me.

For baby and me, for baby
and me

And there will be plenty for
baby and me.

[EYFS: Listen and Play - Pat a cake - BBC Teach](#)

Birth – 2 years



Lie your baby in front of you and sing the song to them.

While you are singing pat your babies' hands. To continue the game start by patting their tummy. Sing "Pat, pat your tummy, pat, pat your tummy." Gently pat other parts of your child's body singing as you go. "Pat, pat your cheek, pat, pat your cheek." Pat babies' chin, nose, toes, arms, legs

2-3 years



Smile and say your child's name to encourage them to watch your face while you are singing.

This song makes a good clapping song. Face your child and teach them the clapping actions. First clap your own hands together, then clap your two hands together with your child's. At "pat it" pat your legs and then mime pricking it, marking with B and rocking a baby along with the lyrics.

3-4 years



This makes a good clapping song. First stand face to face and clap your own hands together. Then clap your child's hands, one at a time on a diagonal. Next pat your legs on the lyric "pat it". Mime the actions for the rest of the song, pricking, marking with a B and mime rocking a baby. Once children have learnt to do the clapping actions, they love to see how fast they can do them.

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

Share a book together about this rhyme.

Chat about the pictures and story. Make comments and ask simple questions.

Baking with Dad by Aurora Cacciapuota

The Best Ever Baking Book by Jane Bull

Spot Bakes a Cake by Eris Hill

Children's Book of Baking Cakes by Usborne

Dancing with Bill Haley

The musician Bill Hayley produced a song of this rhyme and added some lyrics. These are good to have a dance around together.



Pat a cake, pat a cake, drummer man
Knock me a beat just as fast as you can
Romp it, stomp it, rock it with glee
Play it like crazy for my baby and me

[Bill Haley - Pat-a-cake - Bing video](#)

Mark your cake.

Pat -a -cake is believed to be the oldest Nursery rhyme. Children have been singing it for over 300 years!

Before people owned their own ovens they took their pies and cakes to the bakers. They marked them to make sure the cakes did not get mixed up. Put your child's name in the rhyme. If your child can hear initial sounds you can add other names and work out the initial sound to mark the cake with. "Mark it with T and put it in the oven for Tommy and me."

You could mark other things with your child's initial such as cakes and pies you have made. You could paint their initial using food colouring on toast before you eat it.

