

# Chat, Play, Share

## Little Miss Muffet

**Little Miss Muffet**  
**Sat on a tuffet,**  
**Eating her curds and whey.**  
**There came a big spider,**  
**Who sat down beside her**  
**And frightened Miss Muffet**  
**away.**

[Little Miss Muffet - BBC Teach](#)

**Younger Children** Sing the song gently to your child. Add actions by using your hand with wriggling figures as the spider. Tickle your child as you sing the last line of the song.

**Older Children** Little Miss Muffet is a rhyme which has many different variations around the world. Share the examples below with your child, they can all be sung to the same tune. Why not find the countries together on a map?

### Little Miss Tuckett

Sat on a bucket,  
Eating some peaches  
and cream.  
There came a  
grasshopper  
And tried hard to stop  
her,  
But she said, "Go away,  
or I'll scream."

**American version**

### Little Miss Muffet

Arose from her tuffet  
To box with the old  
kangaroo.  
There came a big  
wombat  
To join in the combat  
And Little Miss Muffet  
withdrew.

**Australian version**

### Lickle Miss Julie

Kotch pon ar stoolie,  
An nyam wan ripe  
Bombay;  
Den bredda Anancy  
Come frighten de  
pickney  
An tief de ripe mango  
away.

**Jamaican version**

Talk with your child about the different rhymes. They don't have to understand all the words to enjoy them!

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

Some children (and adults) are scared of spiders. If your child is scared talk sensitively about things which scare people but which, when explained are not frightening, such as spiders. Look at some pictures of spiders together and talk about what you see.

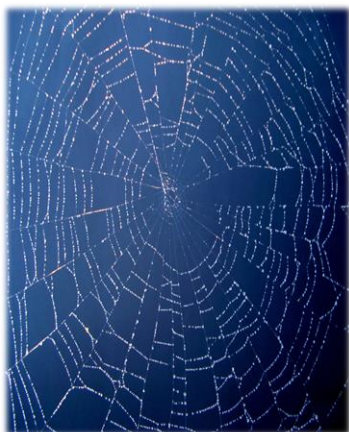
Share a story together about a spider and chat about the pictures and story. Examples of stories:

- Spinderella by Julia Donaldson
- Spider by Alison Steadman
- Speckle the spider by Emma Dodson
- Walter's wonderful web by Tim Hopgood
- Aaaarrgghh spider by Lydia Monks
- The Eensy Weensy spider freaks out by Troy Cummings

There are also lots of animated versions of stories online which you could watch together and then talk about. For example, 'The Very Busy Spider' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfL0g-XRxnA>

### **Little Miss Muffet game**

Sing the nursery rhyme 'Little Miss Muffet'. Recite the rhyme several times and then change the 'sat down beside her' to include a variety of movements such as 'jumped round beside her', 'tiptoed round' or 'skipped round'. Encourage your child to listen and add in the correct action for the instruction you give, as this is good for practising listening skills. Can they think of any other ways to move which can be included as another verse?



### **Web hunt**

Next time you go for a walk with your child or are outside, look out for spiders' webs. Look closely at any you find and talk about what you see. Share with your child that the spider spins the web to catch food. Think of words to describe the web and use this as a chance to introduce new words which your child might not know, for example, 'delicate, spiral, jewelled (if it has been raining)'.