

Chat, Play, Share



[When I was one I sucked my thumb -
BBC Teach](#)

Pirate Song

**When I was one I sucked my
thumb, the day I went to sea.
I jumped aboard a pirate ship,
and the captain said to me –**

**We're going this way, that
way, forwards and
backwards, Over the Irish
Sea. We're going this way,
that way, forwards and
backwards,
That's the life for me!**

Additional verses:

Add the chorus between each verse (We're going this way, that way, forwards and backwards, over the Irish Sea. We're going this way, that way, forwards and backwards, That's the life for me!)

- *When I was two I buckled my shoe, the day I went to sea. I jumped aboard a pirate ship, and the captain said to me –*
- *When I was three I bashed my knee, the day I went to sea. I jumped aboard a pirate ship, and the captain said to me –*
- *When I was four I knocked on the door, the day I went to sea. I jumped aboard a pirate ship, and the captain said to me –*
- *When I was five I learnt to dive, the day I went to sea. I jumped aboard a pirate ship, and the captain said to me –*

Younger Children

Hold your baby in your arms and sing the song softly to them. Gently rock them each time you sing the chorus.

For toddlers, sit opposite them on the floor and hold their hands as you sing the song (like you're in a boat). Each time you sing the verse rock sideways for 'this way, that way' and backwards/forwards for 'forwards and backwards'. Pause for a little longer after each verse to build excitement and gradually sing each chorus faster/ louder.

Older Children

Enjoy learning the song together. Can you come up with some fun actions for each of the verses and the chorus? After singing the song a few times see if your child can pretend to be the captain and sing the chorus on their own from memory? If you have an empty box, you could pretend it's your pirate ship and sit in it to sing the song.

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

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

- Pirates love underpants by Claire Freedman and Ben Cort
- Class three all at sea by Elizabeth Jarman
- The pirates next door by Jonny Duddle
- Captain Jack and the pirates by Peter Bently and Helen Oxenbury
- Ten little pirates by Mike Brownlow
- The Night Pirates by Peter Harris

Pirate Game Children who are in reception, might enjoy playing the online pirate game below with you. Select phase 2 to start and see if your child can work out which are real words to put in the treasure chest. Help your child to sound out and blend the words if needed or check they know what the real words mean.

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/2/buried-treasure>

Treasure hunt Pirates love to hunt for treasure and giving children specific instructions to follow helps develop their listening and attention skills. Find a box/bag (or pirate chest!) and challenge your child to find things to put in it which are a certain colour, which start with a particular letter or just random items which you whisper one at a time.



A bit of fun...it's good for children to learn that language can be used for lots of different purposes, including making people laugh. How about learning some pirate jokes together? Is your child confident enough to tell another family member one of the jokes? Here's one to get you started: 'Why are pirates called pirates? Because they arrrrrr'.