

# Chat, Play, Share

## I'm a little hedgehog

I'm a little hedgehog,  
Brown and small.  
Very prickly,  
Not that tall.  
When I'm feeling frightened,  
Away I crawl,  
And curl up into a ball!

(Second verse below)

Sing this song to the tune of 'I'm a little teapot'.

*Second verse: I'm a little hedgehog, build my nest. When it's autumn, leaves are best. If you build a bonfire, have you guessed? Check inside, I'm having a rest!*

### Younger children

Sit with your baby facing you and hold hands. Say their name to encourage them to look at you when you are singing.

Rock backwards and forwards together and then drop hands, tuck your chin in your chest and curl up into a ball like a hedgehog.

As you are singing the song interlock your hands to make the prickly spines. Next, pretend to be a hedgehog. Make your body small, talk about tucking in your arms and legs. Crawl on hands and knees into a space and then see if you can curl up into a ball shape.

### Older children

Sing the song and stress the words that rhyme. Talk about the meaning of the words and make up some actions to accompany the song. Crawl around the room and when you say "frightened hedgehog" stop moving and make a tiny ball shape on knees or back. Talk about what makes you feel frightened, what you can do and who might help you.

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

Share a book together about hedgehogs. Chat about the pictures and story. Make comments and ask simple questions.

- The Very Helpful Hedgehog by Rosie Wellesley
- Hedgehog Needs a Hug by Jen Betton
- Wide-awake Hedgehog by Rosie Wellesley
- Hedgehog howdedo by Lynley Dodd



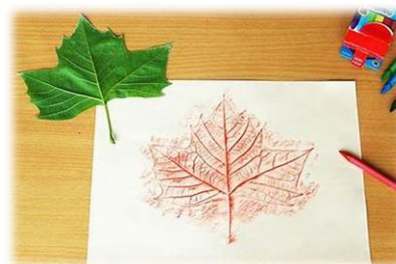
Discuss hedgehogs and talk about the meaning of the words **nocturnal** and **hibernation**. Why not look up some facts about hedgehogs together? [Hedgehog Fact Sheet - Tiggywinkles \(sttiggywinkles.org.uk\)](http://sttiggywinkles.org.uk)

### Have fun with Antonyms!

Antonyms is from the Greek word meaning **opposite name**. Talk about hedgehogs' prickles and how they curl up in a ball to protect themselves. Now have some fun thinking of a word and then coming up with the opposite e.g. spiky/smooth or curved/straight.

### Rhyme time

Either do some leaf printing with paint or make a rubbing using paper over the bumpy side of the leaf with the side of a pencil or crayon. Cut out your leaf shapes and write a rhyming word on each. Pretend to be the wind and throw the leaves up in the air. See if you can catch the leaves and match the rhyming pairs.



### Autumn walk



Go for a walk and collect some leaves. Talk about the size, shape and colours that you come across.

Do the leaves make a sound as you walk on them? What do they sound like? Can you hear anything else?

Have fun together kicking the leaves up and swirling round as they fall back down. Can you catch a leaf as it falls from a tree?