

Cumbria County Council  
**Chat Play Share**  
Rhymes and songs

[ONE TWO THREE MOTHER CAUGHT  
A FLEA Nursery Rhyme - YouTube](#)



**One, two, three, Mother  
caught a flea**

One, two, three,  
Mother caught a flea  
She put it in the teapot  
To make a cup of tea.  
The flea jumped out  
Mother gave a shout  
In came father  
With his shirt hanging out.

Four, five, six Father's in a fix  
He's got to find a billy goat and hatch a few more chicks  
The chicks hatch out  
Father gives a shout  
In comes granny with her hair sticking out  
(for seven, eight, nine click on link above)



**Younger children**

Bounce your baby along to the strong beat in this rhyme. Sit facing and mouth the words slowly and clearly for them to follow. This is great for encouraging speech development. Emphasize the rhyming word at the end of each line. Share the actions together such as putting the flea in the teapot and making a cup of tea.

**Older children**

Sing the song while tapping or clapping the pulse. Have some fun using a different voice for each verse as the character changes. Vary the pitch with father having a deep voice. What might people shout to gain someone else's attention?

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

Share a story together about fleas. Chat about the pictures and story. Also read some non-fiction books to explore fleas further. Examples of stories:

- Flea seeks dog by Will Mabbitt and Nathan Reed
- The Flea's Sneeze by Lynn Downey
- There Was a Coyote Who Swallowed a Flea by Jennifer Ward
- Flea Story by Leo Lionni
- Samson, the Mighty Flea! by Angela McAllister

### **Amazing Facts About the Flea**

[Amazing Facts about Fleas | OneKindPlanet Animal Education & Facts](#)

Fleas can jump around 30 thousand times in a row!

They can also jump very high. If they were human-sized, then they would be able to jump over the Eiffel Tower.

Fleas can lift objects 150 times heavier than their own body weight.

Talk about other animals that jump. Can you jump like a kangaroo or perhaps a frog? Talk about different kinds of jumping that humans do. Have a go at the high jump by placing some cushions on top of each other. Try the long jump and measure how far you go by using your hands.



### **Teatime!**

Invite some friends (or teddies) around for a tea party. Rehearse what you are going to say before phoning or write an invitation together discussing, date, time, and place. Discuss plans such as food and drink, making a shopping list of things to buy and talking about which shops you need to visit. Make sure you keep the lid on the teapot to stop those fleas from jumping in!

Play a game of Hokey, Cokey. Add a verse-you jump your whole self in, your whole self out.....