

Cumbria County Council

Chat Play Share

Rhymes and songs

<https://www.nurseryrhymes.org/horsey-horsey.html>



Horsey, Horsey

Horsey, Horsey don't you stop, just let your feet go clippety-clop.

Your tail goes swish, and the wheels go round, giddy up we're homeward bound.



Younger Children

Have fun singing this song with your child sat on your lap facing you. Bounce your knees along to the rhythm of the song, whilst they hold your hands like they are reins. Start off by singing the song slowly and quietly, then repeat several times and gradually increase the speed and volume as well as speeding up your bouncing knees. Does your child start to get excited as you go faster? Do they start to anticipate the increase in speed if you sing this song regularly? With older babies/toddlers if you pause before repeating the song and say "faster?" do they show you they are ready or repeat the word?

Older Children

Teach your child this song and encourage your child to trot around the room (or garden) as you sing together. The speed and volume can be varied and see if your child can alter his/her movements accordingly.

Continue to play horses after singing. Practice helping your child to listen to and respond to instructions by encouraging them to change their movements depending on what you say. As they trot around use instructions such as 'stop, go, faster, slower, noisy horse'. With older children introduce words to describe how horses move (trot, canter, gallop) and model these. Can your child remember what they mean if you include them in the game?

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

Share a story together which is set on a farm and chat about the pictures and story. Examples of stories:

- On the Farm by Axel Scheffler
- What the Ladybird Heard by Julia Donaldson
- The Farmyard Jamboree by Margaret Read McDonald
- We Love the Farm by Rachael Saunders
- Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle
- Farmyard Beat by Lindsey Craig
- Farmyard Hullabaloo by Giles Andreae (Animal poems)

Electronic versions of stories can also often be found online. Some children prefer information books to stories; Usborne have some great ones about horses. Farming magazines would also be an alternative!

Listening game

Find something to use to make the sound of horseshoes clip clopping. Tapping two wooden blocks, wooden spoons or coconut shells together works well. Make the sound for your child and let them have a go. Ask them to close their eyes (and count if they can) whilst you go and hide. Repeatedly make the clop-clop sound and see if your child can listen and follow the sound to find you. Start off hiding nearby, but gradually go further away so your child needs to listen more carefully to find you.

Sorting activity

Gather a selection of toy farm animals (or cut pictures from magazines/ draw simple pictures yourself). Make a field for the animals using fences, a box or a square drawn on paper. Talk with your child about the different animals you have. Set your child challenges to sort the animals in different ways. For younger children this might just be putting all of one type of animal in the field. See if older children can sort by colour, number of legs, those with tails, those with feathers etc? Introduce the words 'same/different' and encourage your child to explain what they have done. Can they suggest a different way to sort the animals?



Sorting by colour