

Cumbria County Council

Chat Play Share

Rhymes and songs

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive

One, two, three, four, five,
Once I caught a fish alive.
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten,
Then I let it go again.
Why did you let it go?
Because it bit my finger so.
Which finger did it bite?
This little finger on the right.

[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive - YouTube](#)
Signs and Sounds

Birth – 2 years



Sit opposite your child and use exaggerated facial expressions as you sing the song. Start the song with a smile and end with a sad face. Can your child copy your expressions?

Clap along to the rhythm of the song and see if your child joins in.

2-3 years



Sit opposite each other and use the fingers of your hands to count up to ten as you sing the song. Use actions of shrugging your shoulders and holding your hands out in front of you with a puzzled expression for why, then use a sad face and hold up the little finger of your right hand to complete the actions. See if your child can point to other body parts that you name.

3-4 years



Listen to the song and see if you can identify any words that rhyme. Can you think of another word that rhymes e.g. ten, Ben.

Make a fishing rod out of a twig/stick, string/wool and a magnet. Draw some fish, decorate and put paperclips on the end. Play a fishing game and count how many you catch.

*Use under supervision and make sure magnets are not swallowed and stored safely

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

Share a book together about fish and count how many of each you can see on one page. Chat about the pictures and story. Examples:

- Ten Little Fish by Audrey Wood
- Count with Little Fish by Lucy Cousins
- The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister
- Fidgety Fish by Ruth Galloway
- Fish Eyes: A Book You Can Count On by Lois Ehlert
- Sardines of Love by Zurine Aguirre

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-1-2-3-4-5-once-i-caught-a-fish-alive/zdy6jhw>

Fishing game extension ideas: Make your fish different colours or put numbers on them and catch them in an agreed order. For older children put letters of the alphabet on them or make pairs of rhyming words. Keep the fish if you have the matching pair or throw it back for someone else. You could use magnetic letters or make a collection of metal objects to discuss as you 'catch' them.

Visit a pet shop or aquarium at the local garden centre and talk about the different fish you can see. Talk about the shapes, sizes and colours. Design your own fish and let your imagination go wild. Talk about the shapes and movement of your pencil as you draw patterns for scales. Use the words round and round, up and down and zig zag.

Go for a trip to the library (or borrow a book online) choosing a non-fiction book about caring for fish. Find out where different types of fish live and learn the vocabulary of different parts of a fish such as gills, fins and scales.

Get the children involved in cooking. Why not make your own fish fingers or fish cakes or make a tuna layered salad rainbow pot (see kid's fish recipes <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/layered-rainbow-salad-pots> by Lulu Grimes using tuna, pasta shapes, plain yogurt and vegetables of your choice.

Discuss the food you choose for your pot.

Can you eat a rainbow every day?

