

Cumbria County Council

Chat Play Share

Rhymes and songs

A Wise Old Owl

A wise old owl lived in an oak.

The more he saw the less he spoke.

The less he spoke the more he heard.

Why can't we all be like that wise old bird?

<https://youtu.be/MYNJyg78Jmc>

Birth – 2 years



With your baby lying on its back sit facing and rock forwards so you are nearly touching noses. Use big eyes and a wide smile as you move in time to the pulse of the rhyme. Try different speeds and see if your child reacts to the anticipation of your face getting closer to theirs.

2-3 years



Pretend to be the owl in the tree. Can you sit still with your eyes closed and then open them wide on the word 'spoke'. Play a game with a feather and take it in turns to sit with eyes closed while the other person gently tickles the other. See if you can say 'twit twoo' when the person starts moving and giggling.

3-4 years



Use wooden spoons to tap the beat as you say the rhyme. Emphasise the words that rhyme and see if you can think of more e.g. oak, spoke, folk. Pretend to be a sound detective. Go round the house or garden and listen for noises (you could record them on your phone). Talk about what you hear. Are there different noises at night? Talk about nocturnal animals and the noises they make.

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

Share a book together about owls.

Chat about the pictures and story. Make comments and ask simple questions.

- Owl Babies by Martin Waddell
- The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark by Jill Tomlinson
- Good-night, owl! by Pat Hutchins
- Oliver's wood by Sue Hendra
- Peace at Last by Jill Murphy

Electronic versions of stories can also often be found online. Research different types of owl and learn some fun facts e.g. the tawny owl is our largest common owl and is known for making the familiar 'twit twoo' sound. A baby owl is called an Owlet and a group of owls is called a Parliament.

Owl Hunting Game-use your senses

One person wears a blindfold (a scarf will do) and pretends to be an owl sitting in the tree at night. Other children are the Voles and Mice and have to scamper around looking for food whilst continuously rustling and squeaking...



*The Owl has to catch the Voles and Mice, just by listening for sounds. When a Mouse or Vole is caught it's their turn to be the Owl.

Nocturnal animals

Nocturnal animals are awake and active at night and sleep during the day. Nocturnal creatures generally have highly developed senses of hearing, smell and specially adapted eyesight. Make a list of other animals that are nocturnal and think about what they eat. How do their senses help them when it is dark at night? Before you get ready for bed, wrap up warm and pop outside. Use your senses and talk about what you can see, hear, smell and feel. Hedgehogs are nocturnal. Find out how to attract them into your garden at:

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/helpful-garden->