

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

**Mulberry Bush**

Here we go round the mulberry bush, the mulberry bush, the mulberry bush.  
Here we go round the mulberry bush on a cold and frosty morning.

This is the way we wash our face, wash our face, wash our face. This is the way we wash our face on a cold and frosty morning. (More verses overleaf)

<https://www.nurseryrhymes.org/here-we-go-round-the-mulberry-bush.html>

**Birth – 2 years**



'Mulberry Bush' is a very versatile song which has words which can easily be changed. Try making up your own versions to sing to your baby as you carry out everyday routines. For example: 'This is the way we...put on your vest; wash your tummy; tickle your toes; go to sleep'. Vary the speed and volume when singing depending on the task.

**2-3 years**



Introduce actions for each verse of the song. Sing opposite your child so they can watch and copy you. Add in made up verses with different actions and see if they pick up on this and continue to copy you. For example: 'This is the way we...wave to granny; turn around; jump up and down.'

Hold hands round a small tree outside and sing the first verse as you go round and round.

**3-4 years**



After singing the song see if your child can follow simple instructions to put their own clothes on (or to select the right item and have a go). Use short simple instructions and ask them to find one item at a time. Give them time to look for the item and have a good go at putting it on, before stepping in to help. For older children you could add extra information (e.g. blue stripy t-shirt) or include two-part instructions (e.g. socks and shoes).

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

Further verses:

*This is the way we comb our hair, comb our hair, comb our hair. This is the way we comb our hair on a cold and frosty morning.*

*This is the way we brush our teeth, brush our teeth, brush our teeth. This is the way we brush our teeth on a cold and frosty morning.*

*This is the way we put on our clothes, put on our clothes, put on our clothes. This is the way put on our clothes on a cold and frosty morning.*

There's a great multicultural book with a version of 'Mulberry bush' to sing along to by Fred Penner called 'Here we go round the mulberry bush' and a book called 'Whoosh around the mulberry bush' by Jan Ormerod about animals which encourages singing and dancing. These are great books to share and sing along to or you could use musical instruments or items from home to play/tap along to the rhythm.



Children generally like to be sung to (regardless of whether you think you can sing or not?!) and will often respond better to sung instructions. Try using the song to teach your child to help you with simple household tasks. Model the action as you sing the song (so they start to link the words with the action as they listen/watch) and then let them have a go. For example: 'This is the way we...wipe your chair; sweep the floor; pull out the washing'.

Learning to listen to and respond to instructions is a key skill. With older children you could turn the song into a turn-taking game. Find a big space or go outside; then make-up a verse to the same tune, which includes an action for your child to complete. For example, 'This is the way we...jump up and down; turn around; stamp our feet; whisper hello'. As you sing, hopefully they will start the action, then you can join in. Praise them for good listening and encourage them to make up their own verse, then you can add in the action. You could also reinforce terms such as 'my turn' and 'your turn' at the same time. How many different actions can you think off?