

Cumbria County Council
Chat Play Share
Rhymes and songs

Up the wooden hill to
blanket fair

Up the wooden hill to
Blanket Fair,

What shall we have when
we get there?

A bucket full of water,

And a pennyworth of hay,

Gee up, Dobbin, all the way!

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/up-the-wooden-hill-to-blanket-fair/>

Birth – 2 years



Sit on the floor with your baby on your lap. Pick up the pretend reins for your horse and gently rock forwards and backwards as you sing the song. Make noises and choose some words to encourage your horse to move from a walk to a trot to a canter.

2-3 years



Ride a pretend horse or make your own hobby horse (see below) as you sing. Talk about the speed of your horse and introduce words such as walk, trot and canter. You may have to go slowly up hill and your horse may stop and start as it stops to have a drink or eat some hay. A quick flick of the reins to gee Dobbin up and off you go at a gallop!

3-4 years



Sing the song while prancing around like a highly strung racehorse or a dressage competitor. Use ribbons or lengths of paper to be reins and dance your horse around the living room. Dobbin is a quiet plodding farm horse. Talk about different breeds of horse and what jobs they have historically undertaken. Can you think of names for the horses?

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

Share a book together about bedtime.

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

- *Llama Llama Red Pajama* by Anna Dewdney
- *If Animals Kissed Good Night* by Ann Paul
- *The Going to Bed Book* by Sandra Boynton
- *A Book of Sleep* by Il Sung Na
- *Ten out of bed* by Penny Dale

Electronic versions of stories can also often be found online.

Bedtime- Up the wooden hill refers to the stairs up to bed. Have a talk about your bedtime routine and what makes it special. Encourage your child to help you change or make the bed and talk about sheets, pillowcases, duvets, and blankets. Encourage pretend play with a doll or stuffed toy to reinforce good bedtime routines. For healthy sleep tips for children visit:



<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sleep-and-tiredness/healthy-sleep-tips-for-children/>

Make your own hobby horse out of a sock and talk about words to describe different movements for horses or humans- plod, trample, trudge, trot, schlepp, pirouette, bound, lope etc

[How To Make a Sock Hobby Horse - DIY Crafts Tutorial - Guidecentral - YouTube](#)



Movement vocabulary-things to talk about

People can walk, skip, and run. With four legs, horses can move in even more different ways, called gaits. They naturally walk, trot, canter, and gallop, depending on how fast they need to move. You may have watched the equestrian events from the recent Olympic games and be aware that horses can dance when they compete in the dressage. Use your hobby horse to dance or trot. You could make your own fences out of cushions to jump over.