

Cumbria County Council

Chat Play Share

Rhymes and songs

A sailor went to sea

A sailor went to sea,
sea, sea,

To see what he could
see, see, see.

But all that he could see,
see, see,

Was the bottom of the
deep blue sea, sea, sea.

[A sailor went to sea, sea, sea - BBC Teach](#)

Birth – 2 years



Sit with your baby facing you. Say their name to encourage them to look at you as you are singing.

This is a great song to sing at bath time. Sing and do the actions. Splash the water when you sing “sea” and point to your eyes when you sing “see.” Splash in the bath, talk about the water and the sounds it makes. Splish, splash, splosh.

2-3 years



Smile and say your child’s name to encourage them to watch your face while you are singing.

Sing this song standing up, marching on the spot and doing the actions. Make a wave motion with your hand and arm when you sing “sea, sea, sea” and put your hand to brow and look around when you are singing “see, see, see” Crouch down when singing “bottom of thesea...”

3-4 years



Sing this song standing up, marching on the spot and doing the actions. Make a wave motion with your hand and arm when you sing “sea, sea, sea” and put your hand to brow and look around when you are singing “see, see, see.” Make up an action for sailor. Miss out a word at a time and only do the actions. Hum in the word gaps until you are humming the song without words.

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

Share a book together about this rhyme.

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

A Sailor Went to Sea, Sea, Sea: Favourite Rhymes from an Irish Childhood
by Sarah Webb (Author), Steve McCarthy (Illustrator)

Brilliant Boats by Tony Mitton and Ant Parker

Octopus's Garden by Ringo Starr and Ben Cort

Five Minutes to Bed by Richard Dugworth

A Sailing Boat in the Sky by Quentin Blake

Additional lyrics

A mermaid (pirate/ seagull) went to sea,
sea, sea.

To see what she could see, see, see

And all that she could see, see, see

Was a dolphin (shark/ jellyfish)

at the bottom of the, sea, sea sea.



One word, two meanings!

Sea and see although spelt differently are pronounced in the same way but have different meanings. Can you think of other words like this? Some words with different meanings may be spelt the same.

Some examples are : Eye, I / cricket bat, flying bat / tree bark, dog bark / Sail on the sea, sail on the boat. You could draw pictures and label them to show the differences.

What's my job?

You can play this game in different ways:
Show pictures of people doing jobs and see if your child can guess the job. You could mime doing the job. Give clues such as "I work on a boat." for a sailor.

