



# I Hear Thunder

## How to use this song

### Learning objectives

#### Stepping Stone

Show an awareness of change.

#### Early Learning Goal

Look closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change. **(KUW)**

#### Group size

6 children.

#### Props

Drums.

Cymbals.

Rainmakers.

Triangles.

Homemade shakers.

Wood blocks.

### Sharing the song

This popular song can be sung when discussing the weather at the start of circle time on a wet or stormy day. It can also be used to support work on themes such as 'Weather', 'Changes', 'Clothes' and 'Seasons'.

Follow your usual routine of filling in a weather chart or discussing weather conditions. Tell the children that you have a special weather song and listen to it together.

Talk about how we use our ears to listen, and explain that some people cup a hand behind an ear to help them to hear better. Suggest that they try doing this while you walk around and whisper something to each child. Could they hear your whispers? Explain that 'hark' means the same as 'listen'.

Discuss the sound that raindrops make. If possible, go outside and stand under umbrellas to listen to the 'pitter patter' sound as the rain hits the surface.

Invite the children to recall times when

they have been wet through. How did they feel? Were they cold and uncomfortable? How did they warm up?

Practise the suggested actions and then play the song and join in with the words and actions. Show the children the selection of instruments and play each one while they listen. Which instrument would be most suitable for the sound of thunder? What can the children use to create raindrop sounds? Choose two children to create the sound of thunder and rain on their chosen instruments while the rest of the children sing and do the actions.

### Activity ideas

- Use instruments to create the sound of loud thunder to stimulate discussion about children's experiences of storms. How did they feel when they heard thunder rumbling and saw flashes of lightning? Dispel fears by explaining the cause of thunder and lightning **(PSED)**
- Provide a range of rainwear and waterproof materials such as umbrellas and wellies for them to explore. Talk about when they need to wear them and why. Show children a range of different materials, such as denim, cotton, plastic and rubber and ask which they think might make the best rainhat. Provide some waterproof material and invite them to try to make a rainhat for a doll. Test by pouring water from a watering can over the doll's head to see if her hair stays dry. **(CLL)**
- Invite the children to put on appropriate clothes for wet weather from a selection of different garments. Extend this activity by making copies of the photocopyable sheet, mounting them on card and cutting out the small pictures to create individual cards. Sort the cards into two piles of clothes, suitable for hot, dry weather and cold, wet weather. **(PD)**
- Have fun jumping in puddles wearing wellies, coats and rainhats in outdoor play. **(CD)**