

**LEARNING OBJECTIVE**

To learn a song and substitute sounds for some of the words.

**CURRICULUM LINKS**

QCA citizenship, Unit 1: Taking part. QCA music, Unit 1: Ongoing skills.

# Story song

## What you need

A simple cumulative song, such as 'I Went to the Animal Fair' or 'This Old Man'.

## What to do

- Tell the children that they are going to sing a cumulative song such as 'This Old Man' and as it progresses they are going to leave out a word and substitute it with an action. The challenge will be how many words they can leave out!
- Teach the children the song. They will need to know it very well. A good way of helping them to start with is as follows:
  - Sing the first line. Ask the children to repeat it.
  - Sing the second line. Ask the children to repeat it.
  - Sing the third line, and so on.
- When you reach the end of the song, begin again. This time, sing the first and second lines to the children. Let them repeat these. Continue in this way, taking two lines at a time until the end of the song.
- Ask the children to sing the song all the way through with you. Then repeat the whole song two or three times until the children can sing it through with ease.
- Tell the children you want them to leave out a given word. Then repeat the song together, substituting an action for the missing word. This might be:

*This old man, he played — (use an action here to replace the missing word – one)  
He played knick knock on my drum...*

- Continue to sing the song together in this way, leaving out key words and substituting them with actions. How many words can the class confidently omit?
- Encourage the children to think of actions that they can use to substitute the words.
- When the children know the song really well, they can perform it in groups and decide themselves which words to omit and which actions to use.

## Differentiation

More able children could teach other children a new song, or allow them to take the lead role and choose the words to be omitted. Less able children will need practice and support to remember to omit words and substitute actions. It may be helpful to display the words using an overhead projector or to write them on the board. Adults may like to warn them the word is about to be omitted, or use an aid to help them.

