

Horsey, Horsey

How to use this song

Learning objectives

Stepping Stone

Show respect for other children's personal space when playing among them.

Early Learning Goal

Show awareness of space, of themselves and others. **(PD)**

Group size

Four children.

Props

Belts.
Thick string.

Give everyone a copy of the photocopiable sheet, and ask them to draw a driver and reins, and to add circular, card wheels, attached with split pins to the picture of the horse and cart.

Activity ideas

- Talk about and show the children a horseshoe and talk about the work of blacksmiths. Explain that horseshoes make a 'clippety-clop' sound on the ground. Ask one child to be the horse and to put an old, clean pair of children's socks on their hands, and another pair (adult-sized) over their shoes. Ask the child to get down on all fours and put one 'leg' out at a time. The other child, the blacksmith, can gently hammer on four horseshoes, made from card and silver foil, with small balls of Blu-Tack attached. **(KUW)**
- Talk about, and show pictures of, traditional horse-drawn homes, such as Romany caravans (including modern holiday home replicas) and covered wagons. Let children make their own caravans and wagons using a selection of junk materials and dolls' house furniture. **(KUW)**
- Talk about how horses 'trot', 'canter' and 'gallop'. Let children create a course for some horses, using model horses and fences. Ask the children to make their horses trot, canter and gallop around the course. Outside, let children pretend to be horses, moving at the correct speed, as you say 'please trot', and so on. **(PD)**
- Let the children use coconut shells to record the hoof sounds of trotting, cantering and galloping, into a tape recorder. Play the recording back and let everyone pretend to be horses, moving accordingly around the room, varying their speed to suit the different paces. **(CD)**

Sharing the song

This song is valuable for exploring the following concepts: horse-drawn transport, past times, speed, shoeing a horse and the work of blacksmiths. These concepts may be developed in themes such as 'Animals', 'How we used to live', 'Sport' and 'Jobs'. The song is useful to sing when the children are moving from one area of your room to another.

To introduce the song, play the CD. Invite everyone to sing along and to make the appropriate actions. Say that long ago, before cars were invented, people would travel in coaches or carriages pulled by horses and hold up a picture to show them.

Ask the group to get into pairs with one child being the horse and the other the carriage driver. Let the horses wear a belt each, with a short length of thick string (the reins) tied to each side.

Play the song again, with the horses pulling the drivers, who hold the reins. Reverse the roles to give all the children a turn as horse and driver.