

Rhyme Time

Title	The Big Ship Sails		
Possibilities for maths learning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counting <input type="checkbox"/> Subitise <input type="checkbox"/> Shape	<input type="checkbox"/> Composition <input type="checkbox"/> Comparison <input type="checkbox"/> Pattern	<input type="checkbox"/> Cardinality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spatial awareness



The big ship sails on the ally ally oh
 The ally ally oh, the ally ally oh,
 The big ship sails on the ally ally oh
 On the last day of September.

The captain said, 'It will never, never do,
 Never, never do, never, never do'
 The captain said, 'It will never, never do'
 On the last day of September.

The big ship sank to the bottom of the sea,
 The bottom of the sea, the bottom of the sea.
 The big ship sank to the bottom of the sea
 On the last day of September

Resources

Supporting the children to act out this rhyme will provide more opportunities for them to see the directional language in context. You can make up actions for the song with the children to encourage them to think about the size and directional language, e.g. big ship, what actions could you use to show it was big and a ship?

Making the activity more real can be supported by props. You could make the big ship out of junk modelling materials (or use small world materials) and the pirate could be a hand puppet, a doll or a finger or stick puppet. Children will love making these, especially if you relate this to pirates or sailors. You may also choose to place these puppets in a rhyme sack for children to access at any time.

Extension opportunities

Can the children think of any other characters or animals that might be on the ship? You could take this activity to the water tray and add different characters to the boat, just like in the book "One Monkey Too Many" by Jackie French Koller, whilst singing the rhyme. How many big animals can they add before it sinks or tips over? What about small animals? Why the difference in number do they think?

Home learning ideas

Children will enjoy singing this rhyme at home and acting this out for their parents with the actions they made up in the setting. You can use the puppets you created for home rhyme sacks, but remember to put the words in the sack too, so parents and other family members can join in.