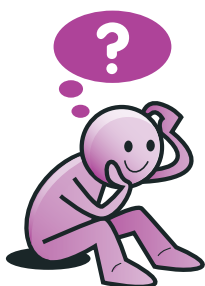


## Section 3.2

# Using songs and rhymes to learn single words/the names of body parts

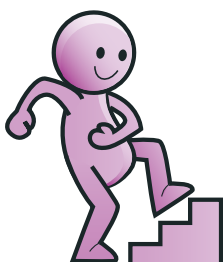


### Why is this important?

The names of body parts are part of a child's early vocabulary. At first children learn to understand the word on its own and then phrases using the word (e.g. 'Mummy's hand', 'Tommy's eyes').

### What to do

- Sing lots of action songs together relating to body parts. Examples include:
  - ★ 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes.'
  - ★ 'Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush' (e.g. this is the way we 'wash our teeth', 'brush our hair').
  - ★ 'If You're Happy and You Know It ...'
  - ★ 'Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear.'
- As you sing, point to each body part together.
- Encourage the child to join in with the actions and point to body parts as you sing.
- Make up songs using well-known tunes (e.g. 'The Wheels on the Bus' could be adapted to 'Katie on the bus, she claps her hands' or 'The children on the bus they touch their toes').
- During everyday routines (e.g. getting dressed, bath-time) ask the child to 'Point to nose', 'Wash tummy', 'Put sock on foot').



### Step up

- Choose a teddy/doll and point to the body parts as you sing the song together.
- Ask the child 'What did you touch?' after each part of the song.
- Pause between the words in the song to encourage the child to fill the gap (e.g. 'Head, shoulders, knees and ...').

### Step down

- Let the child listen and watch as *you* do the actions that go with the song.
- Physically prompt the actions (e.g. hold the child's hands and clap along together).

