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Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale

Education Committee

**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’).**

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**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 …’  
• 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’).**

* [**Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes**](https://nurseryrhymescollections.com/lyrics/head-shoulders-knees-and-toes.html)
* [**Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush**](https://nurseryrhymescollections.com/lyrics/here-we-go-round-the-mulberry-bush.html)
* [**If You're Happy & You Know It**](https://nurseryrhymescollections.com/lyrics/if-youre-happy-and-you-know-it.html)
* [**One Finger One Thumb**](https://nurseryrhymescollections.com/lyrics/one-finger-one-thumb.html)
* [**This Little Piggy Went To Market**](https://nurseryrhymescollections.com/lyrics/this-little-piggy-went-to-market.html)