

## **Row, Row, Row Your Boat**

Row, row, row your boat gently down the stream.  
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, life is but a dream.

Row, row, row your boat gently down the river.  
If you see a polar bear, don't forget to shiver. Brrr.

Sail, sail, sail your boat gently out to sea.  
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily back in time for tea.

Rock, rock, rock your boat gently to and fro.  
Watch out, give a shout, into the water we go. Splash.

Row, row, row your boat, gently down the stream.  
If you see a crocodile, don't forget to scream. Aargh.

Chords C/C/FGC

### **Partner Song – actions**

Sitting opposite each other, children hold hands, pushing and pulling as they start to row their boat.

They carry on rowing until they see a polar bear and give themselves a hug as they shiver.

Sailing out to sea with their arms in the air, they sway from side to side as they sail their boat.

As the sea gets choppy, they start to rock from side to side, falling sideways with a splash.

Sitting up quickly, they hold hands, rowing faster to avoid the crocodiles with a loud scream.

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Nursery Rhyme Week



## Musical Activities for Foundation and Key Stage One

**SINGING GAME with LYCRA:** Lycra is a good resource for encouraging teamwork and cooperation. Depending on the size of the lycra, you might need one or two circles. Working together, children push and pull the lycra, then sway it side to side, lifting it up for the sails.

**CLASS PERCUSSION:** We use guiros for the whole class. If this is not possible have 2, 3 or 4 groups of instruments. Start playing an ostinato in blocks of 4 and to the count of 4. For example 'scrape, scrape, scrape, scrape', 'shake, shake, shake, shake'. Repeat this. If you have another instrument, your ostinato can be a repeated pattern of 3 bars. Bar 1 is 'scrape x 4' Bar 2 is 'shake x 4' and Bar 3 is 'ting (on triangles) x 4.' This repeated pattern (ostinato) is played and then you can start singing as you play. For additional help, we use pictorial rhythm cards.

**ADDITIONAL VERSES:** Write additional verses using the water theme or a completely new topic. For example. Row, row, row your boat gently round the lake. Paddle below nice and slow, I think I saw a snake. Arghh. Ride, ride, ride your bike gently down the lane. Watch out, give a shout, I think it's going to rain. Fly, fly, fly your plane gently through the air. Watch out, give a shout, I think I saw a bear.

**PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS:** Change the pace of the song (tempo) throughout to give atmosphere and drama. Use dynamics to quietly sail and loudly rock and splash. Show a collection of instruments and talk with the children and explore which instruments can be played during the song. Children can choose different instruments for the different 'waters' and additional instruments for the animals. For example: guiro for the freezing polar bear and cymbals for the splash.

**OTHER IDEAS/IMPROVISATION:** Using the sign of open and shut hands for 'magic lips', encourage the children to sing out loud and in their heads. Maybe they can clap and sing out loudly on the words 'row' and nothing else. The claps can then be replaced with a percussion instrument.

