

The farmer wants a wife

by Jackie Holderness & Annie Hughes

Level 2 • Beginner–Elementary

Age: Primary (6–11)

Language aims: To sing a song in English, to follow activities for a song

Time: 15 minutes

Student grouping: Whole class

Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student; the audio (downloaded in advance or played via onestopenglish); pictures to illustrate farmer, wife, dog, child, wants a ... (e.g. a thirsty person, child looking in a shop window at cakes, etc); a large space to move in.

Language focus: *Farmer, wife, child, dog; wants a ...; we all stroke the dog*



Teaching tip

Make sure you are familiar with the song before starting the activity.

Procedure

Step 1

Elicit or introduce *farmer, wife, child, dog, wants a ...* with the pictures. Show the picture of the dog and mime stroke.

Step 2

Explain that you are going to sing a song and that the chorus is *Ee ay adio* which doesn't mean anything.

Step 3

Play the first verse of the song. Then repeat this verse and encourage the children to sing.

Step 4

Play the rest of the song. Children listen and sing. Play three times.

Step 5

Now get the children into a big circle holding hands. Put one child in the middle and say 'The farmer' as you do so. Sing the first verse again, join the circle and walk around the farmer in a clockwise direction. At the end of the verse the 'farmer' has to choose a 'wife' to go into the middle with him/her.

Now play the second verse and walk around both of them. At the end of the verse the wife has to choose a 'child' to go into the middle.

Repeat this with verse three until there are four people in the middle.

After the third verse sing the fourth verse, but this time the whole class has to gently stroke the child that was chosen as the dog.

Follow-up activity

Let the children choose other characters to sing the song about with different actions.

Transcript

*The farmer wants a wife
The farmer wants a wife
Ee ay adio
The farmer wants a wife*

*The wife wants a child
The wife wants a child
Ee ay adio
The wife wants a child*

*The child wants a dog
The child wants a dog
Ee ay adio
The child wants a dog*

*We all stroke the dog
We all stroke the dog
Ee ay adio
We all stroke the dog*

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The farmer wants a wife

The farmer wants a wife

The farmer wants a wife

Ee ay adio

The farmer wants a wife



The wife wants a child

The wife wants a child

Ee ay adio

The wife wants a child

The child wants a dog

The child wants a dog

Ee ay adio

The child wants a dog

We all stroke the dog

We all stroke the dog

Ee ay adio

We all stroke the dog

