

# EYFS: Listen and Play - The Enormous Turnip



## Introduction:

Listen all around: field with tractor  
Individual sounds: tractor, digging, watering seed

**Song** (to tune of The Grand Old Duke of York):

*'Oh, I have a field to plough!  
Said busy Farmer Ben,  
So he drove his tractor up the field, And he drove it down again.  
And when he was up, he was up,  
And when he was down, he was down,  
And when he was only half way up, He was neither up nor down.  
'Oh, I have some seeds to sow!'*

This makes a good marching song. Give your child an instrument to play (e.g. drums, shakers) to march, sing and play.

## Rhyme time:

*Oats and beans and barley grow,  
Oats and beans and barley grow,  
But not you nor I nor anyone know  
How oats and beans and barley grow.*

Followed by:

*The bows do shake and the bells do ring, So merrily comes our harvest in.  
We've ploughed, we've sowed, We've reaped, we've mowed,  
We've got our harvest in.*

**Story time:** *The enormous turnip*

*Once upon a harvest time...*

Listen to this story with your family. Encourage family to pretend to be different characters in the story, holding each other around the middle to pull.

Help your child to change the story by retelling it with a different vegetable and different characters – use people your child knows.

Small group discussion:

- the lesson of the story (cooperation works – everyone pulling together)
- vegetables that grow underground (e.g. potato, carrot, onion, parsnip) and how/ where other vegetables grow.

**Final song** (to the tune of One Man Went to Mow):

*One man went to grow,  
Went to grow a turnip,  
One man and his dog, WOOF WOOF  
Went to grow a turnip.  
One man went to plant,  
Went to plant a turnip,  
One man and his dog, WOOF WOOF  
Went to plant a turnip.  
One man went to dig,  
Went to dig a turnip,  
One man and his dog, WOOF WOOF  
Went to dig a turnip.*

Encourage your child to stand up and move with the rhythm, making up appropriate actions and barking with the dog.

**Follow-up ideas:**

- Plant bean seeds and watch their development; buy a turnip (and some other vegetables) to look at and make soup (have a go at chopping the vegetables for the soup)
- display vegetables and make play-dough or salt-dough vegetables to sell in a pretend greengrocer's shop (with labels, prices, opening hours, shopping lists, receipts)
- practise actions in open space – tugging, pulling, puffing, panting
- use vegetable slices for simple printing of patterns.

Ask your child to suggest vegetables for the soup in the rhyme below, then mime the actions (crying for onions, scraping at the carrots, chopping very hard for turnips, etc.):

*Chop, chop, choppity chop,  
Chop off the bottom and chop off the top.  
What there is left, we will put in the pot  
Chop, chop, choppity chop.*

**Related picture books:**

*Dig, dig, digging* by Margaret Mayo and Alex Ayliffe (Orchard)  
*Meg's veg* by Jan Pienkowski (Puffin)  
*The Gigantic Turnip* by Aleksei Tolstoy and Niamh Sharkey (Barefoot)

**Tuning into sounds:**

Words from this programme that can be used in word-building activities and for writing:  
CVC: dig, dog, cat, s-ee-d, chop, shop, pot, cut