

## 7 Mice Mice British

Mice, mice,  
Eating all the rice,  
Nibble nibble nibble nibble,  
Nice nice nice!



✘ Very simple to learn, this chant offers many opportunities for developing children's voices through the use of imagination.

✘ Use gestures or movement to clarify the structure.

✘ Use the chant to develop the thinking voice and extend the characterful range of the speaking voice (e.g. 'mouse' or 'farmer' voices; high/low, quiet/loud, frightened/angry).

✘ Explore gestures and locomotor movement whilst chanting, highlighting pulse levels and word rhythms and developing coordination between the voice and body.

✘ Use a mouse puppet to encourage individual children to use their high squeaky voice; when the mouse hides away, invite another child to find their low angry voice, or hungry cat voice!

✘ Invite an individual child to tiptoe like a mouse and carefully accompany their steps on an instrument (e.g. claves, triangle, bell).

✘ Encourage the group to move like mice around the room. This will develop their imagination and locomotor skills.

✘ Choose an individual child to be the farmer and the other children to be the mice to develop their sense of timing, anticipation and drama, (e.g. the 1st time round the mice move to the chant, the 2nd time they freeze whilst the farmer stomps).

✘ Demonstrating first, invite children to step like a cat with the bass phrases on the CD which will extend their listening skills and appreciation of patterns and texture in music.

✘ Use body percussion sounds (e.g. clapping, tapping, stamping) to highlight the various pulse levels whilst chanting. Try the same with the word rhythms whilst chanting.

✘ Choose quieter instruments (e.g. triangles, bells, claves) or louder instruments (e.g. drums, cymbals, tambours) to play the word rhythms, representing the mice or the farmer.

✘ Try the above using the 'thinking voice' (see Glossary), evaluating children's ability to externalise a pulse or rhythm without the word prompt support.

✘ Progressing to two-part work, let half the children play a pulse whilst the other half play the chant rhythms.

✘ Using a glockenspiel, improvise the music for a mouse story using pitch and tempi to illustrate the mouse movements. Invite an individual to accompany the story on the xylophone.

✘ Ask two children to choose contrasting instruments. Improvise a musical story based on the adventures of a cat and a mouse accompanied by their instrumental dialogue.

✘ Improvise a short dramatic piece involving mice steps, farmer stomps, cat prowls, voices and instruments.

**Chanting**

**Moving**

**Playing**

**Extending**