



piano

# Miss Lucy Had a Baby campsong

How not to mother a baby in your care --sing along with the silly story just for fun.

Key  $\flat$  first note F(low so)

glockenspiel count-in: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, Miss...

## Miss Lucy Had a Baby

United States  
campsong  
1900s

1. Miss Lu - cy had a **ba - by**, she named him **Ti - ny Tim**, She  
put him in the **bath - tub**, to see if he could swim.

2. He drank up all the water, he **ate up all the soap**,  
He tried to eat the bathtub but it wouldn't go down his throat.
3. He **floated down the river**, He floated down the lake,  
and now Miss Lucy's baby has got a **tummy ache**.
4. Miss Lucy called the **doctor**, Miss Lucy called the **nurse**,  
Miss Lucy called the **lady with the alligator purse**.
5. "**Measles**," said the doctor. "**Measles**," said the nurse.  
"**Chickenpox**," said the lady with the alligator purse.
6. "**Penicillin**," said the doctor. "**Penicillin**," said the nurse.  
"**Pizza**," said the lady with the alligator purse.
7. **Out** went the doctor. Out went the nurse.  
Out went the lady with the alligator purse.

An early version of Miss Lucy has Tim going to bed, sick with bubbles in his throat. There may be a link to epidemics of diphtheria, often accompanied by a sensation of drowning with bubbles in the throat.

Over the years, Miss Lucy (or Susie or ...) has morphed into a version particularly appealing to preteen humour. Sentences leading into "forbidden" words end up using sound-alikes e.g. Miss Lucy had a steamboat, the steamboat had a bell, Miss Lucy went to heaven, the steamboat went to Hello Operator, Give me Number Nine ... My friends and I loved this version when we were young but I'm pretty sure we learned on the school yard NOT in the classroom.

Many of the "silly" songs that reference a futile visit from the doctor have their origin in the late 1800s. People with illnesses that today would be recognized were then often thought to be malingering --and simply in need of gentle push (tonic) or a swift kick. Whose diagnosis do we trust today?

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## New Song: Miss Lucy Had a Baby

- 1 "The last song we learned was about a sick cow and her friends. Here's another song about someone who is ill. Listen for how the person got ill and what happened to them." Sing or play the sing-a-long version.
- 2 Print the numbers 1 through 7 on white board. "There are seven parts to this song story. What happened first?" Put two or three words beside number 1 and then continue through the rest of the verses. "Is the story real? (No) This is a silly song. Do we know any other silly songs? (interesting to hear what students consider silly)
- 3 Model the clapping pattern:  

clap	pat knees	clap	right hand out
clap	pat knees	clap	left hand out
- 4 Do the clapping pattern with students as everyone listens to the song again.
- 5 If you can, show the songvideo this next time as everyone sings and does the clapping pattern again.
- 6 Have students sit in pairs, knees to knees. Now the clapping pattern will include partners clapping their right hands, then left hands instead of clapping out into the air. Sing the song for fun with the partnered clapping pattern.

# For Teacher Only?

## Alternate Schoolyard Words

Miss Lucy had a steamboat,  
The steamboat had a bell,  
Miss Lucy went to heaven  
and the steamboat went to

Hello Operator,  
Give me number nine,  
And if you disconnect me,  
I will kick you in the

Behind the 'frigerator,  
There was a piece of glass,  
Miss Lucy sat upon it  
and she broke her little

Ask me no more questions,  
I'll tell you no more lies,  
The boys are in the bathroom,  
pulling down their

Flies are in the country,  
Bees are in the park  
Miss Lucy and her boy friend  
Are kissing in the

Dark is like a movie  
A movie's like a show  
A show is on the tv set  
And that is all I know.