

Please note:

Charlie Over the Water contains many Social Story elements. However, it does not meet the current definition of a Social Story (10.2 Criteria). For this reason, while it is an important part of Social Story history, it would not be considered a Social Story today.

- Carol Gray

CHARLIE OVER THE WATER



A story from gym class at

Van Raalte School

Holland, Michigan

Draw the missing pictures yourself!

I go to Van Raalte School. I am in Mrs.
DeWitt's kindergarten class. It is a great
kindergarten, believe me! I think it is the best
kindergarten in the WHOLE WORLD!

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I also have a gym teacher. Her name is Mrs. Miller. She teaches us many things. She sometimes asks us to wiggle ALOT.

When she asks us to wiggle

I wiggle my toes,

I wiggle my head,

I wiggle my nose.

I wiggle my legs,

and I wiggle my arms.

I really just wiggle everything all at the same time. It feels a little funny, I think.

***Mrs. Miller teaches us games. One game is called, “Charlie Over the Water”. When we play, we say this rhyme many times:**

Charlie over the water.

Charlie over the sea.

Charlie catches blackbirds.

But he CAN’T CATCH ME.

To play the game, we try to listen to Mrs. Miller. She tells us what to do. To start the game we make a circle. Mrs. Miller stands in the middle. She says to everyone in the circle, “Take ONE GIANT STEP!” I take one giant step towards her.

Just ONE.

I count my step. It’s big, but it’s just ONE. Now the circle is smaller. The other children stand closer to me.

*** Unfortunately, pages 3 and 4 were missing from the original story. I have tried to recreate the missing pages following the format of the original story. *Charlie Over the Water* contains many important Social Story elements. However, it does not meet all of the Social Story 10.2 criteria and would not be considered a Social Story today.**

Together we say:

Charlie over the water.

Charlie over the sea.

Charlie catches blackbirds.

But he CAN'T CATCH ME.

When I say, "...can't catch ME!" I turn around and RUN. I run fast. Mrs. Miller chases the children. Everyone is running. She catches two children by touching them on the shoulder.

* Unfortunately, pages 3 and 4 were missing from the original story. I have tried to recreate the missing pages following the format of the original story. *Charlie Over the Water* contains many important Social Story elements. However, it does not meet all of the Social Story 10.2 criteria and would not be considered a Social Story today.

Mrs. Miller catches two children. We make another circle. Mrs. Miller stands in the center of the circle with the two children she caught.

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I listen for what to do next. Mrs. Miller says to everyone in the circle, "Take ONE GIANT STEP!" I take one giant step towards her.

Just ONE.

I count my step. It's big, but it's just ONE.

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Now the circle is smaller.

The other children stand closer to me now.

Together we say:

Charlie over the water,

Charlie over the sea,

Charlie catches blackbirds,

But he CAN'T CATCH ME!

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When I say, "...can't catch ME!" I turn around and RUN. I run fast, Mrs. Miller and the two other children chase me. They chase everyone in the circle. Everyone is running.

I feel a tap on my shoulder. Someone catches me. Now it's my turn to stand with Mrs. Miller in the center of the circle.

I look at all the children in the circle.
Mrs. Miller tells them to take ONE GIANT STEP.
They do. Now they are standing VERY close
together.

It's time to say:
Charlie over the water,
Charlie over the sea,
Charlie catches blackbirds,
But he CAN'T CATCH ME!

All of a sudden everyone turns and runs. I chase someone and tap them on the shoulder. Now the person I tapped comes and stands in the center of the circle, too, with me and Mrs. Miller.

Mrs. Miller tells everyone in the circle to take ONE MORE STEP. The circle gets smaller. We say our rhyme. Everyone runs. The game goes on and on, over and over.

On the way home from school, I walk and say,

Charlie over the water,

Charlie over the sea,

Charlie catches blackbirds,

But he CAN'T CATCH ME!

I go to a GREAT kindergarten!