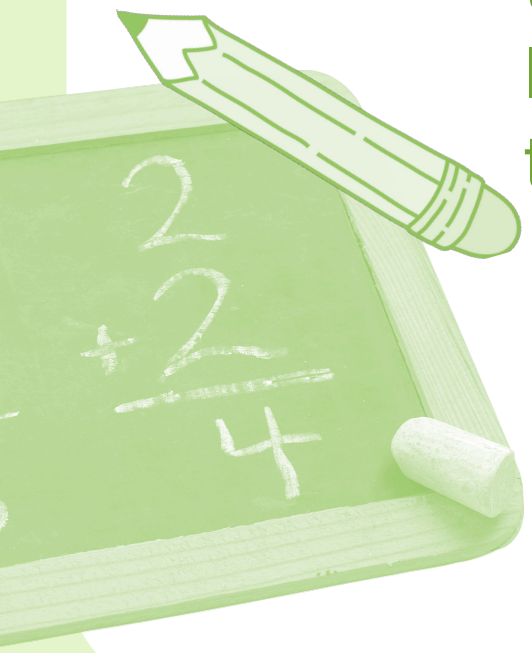
# Nursery Rhymes and Songs about

# SHEEP



**MARY** had a little lamb
it's fleece was white as snow.
And everywhere that Mary went,
the lamb was sure to go.

He followed her to school one day,
that was against the rule.
It made the children laugh and play,
to see a lamb at school.



And so the teacher turned it out,
but still it lingered near.
And waited patiently about,
til' Mary did appear.

## THE STORY
### BEHIND THE RHYME...

The nursery rhyme, which was was first published in 1830, is based on an actual incident involving Mary Elizabeth Sawyer, a woman born in 1806 on a farm in Sterling, Massachusetts. In 1815, Mary, then nine, was helping her father with farm chores when they discovered a sickly newborn lamb in the sheep pen that had been abandoned by its mother. After a lot of pleading, Mary was allowed to keep the animal, and, yes, the lamb would indeed follow her wherever she went and did have a fleece as white as snow.

Sometime later, it's uncertain exactly when, Mary was heading to school with her brother when the lamb began following them. Once there, Mary secreted her pet under her desk and covered her with a blanket. But when Mary was called to the front of the class to recite her lessons, the lamb popped out of its hiding place. The lamb was shooed out, where it then waited outside until Mary took her home during lunch.

The next day, John Roulstone, a student a year or two older, handed Mary a piece of paper with a poem he'd written about the previous day's events.

Source:
https://modernfarmer.com/2017/12/true-story-behind-mary-little-lamb/