



Activity: Developing Imagination
Related Activity: Singing & Fun



Big Kids!

Songs to Inspire Creative Play



Activity Notes

Developing Imagination Activity Notes for *Big Kids!*

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Celebrating Big!

Big Kids has quite a story behind it. The album was first released under the title *Ruff 'n Tumble* and the songs were increasingly used in early childhood centres throughout New Zealand. From there, parents began to enjoy it with their children at home and in the car. One of those songs is titled *Little Kids*. Radha was inspired to write *Little Kids* while observing the exchange of admiration her neighbours had with their grandchildren. She discovered later that, while the song was fondly embraced by the family, a child at the neighbourhood crèche did not appreciate the title, firmly telling Radha that, "No way was she a little kid: she was three – a *big kid*".

Point noted, we re-titled this album *Big Kids!* and re-released it to celebrate the big Universal Children's Audio 25th Birthday this year. We have since lost contact with that 3 yr old. But if you're out there and you still remember the rest of the albums' songs you loved so much, then this one's for you.

Develop Your Child's Imagination

Using just their ears, without the ubiquitous presence of imagery and screens, children can enjoy music at a deeper level, creating their own mental pictures. This is a great way to strengthen creativity.

The variety of songs on this album embraces family groupings from 2 to 6 year-olds. In this book you will find ideas and fun kid-activities based on popular childhood themes. The songs fall into four main categories:

- **Full Body Action Songs** – *Fuss on the Bus, Agitator Twist, Clip Clap*
- **Finger or Sit-Dance Songs** – *Where is My Thumb? Spinning Around, Grandma's Glasses, Gimme Five, Fuss on the Bus*
- **Sing or Clap Along** – *Little Kids, Puddy Wooda, Birthday, Froggy Woggy, Milly Molly Mantis, Play Forever*
- **Listening as you Play** – *Painting, The Thing, cuddles, Frooggy Woggy, Milly Molly Mantis, Puddy Wooda*

Play the music as children play with their toys – or paint, draw, or do collage. Such hands-on activities, supported by music, help children play more contentedly without over dependence on technology. This also supports their growth in self-reliance as they move into the wider world. Let's see our *big kids* fly!

On our website you will find:
- More *Developing Imagination* albums
- Our full Activity Range
- Free books for many albums
- Sound-clips - Articles of interest
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For your reference, this document totals 17 pages.



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Track 1

Painting

by Radha Sahar

- Verse 1* There's a world I see, and a world in me
And a precocious way to make them one
With mixy shapes of serious fun ... is painting!
- Verse 2* There are chimneys and cars, big trees and stars
And a mystifull way to make them one
With spreading slopes of concertrating done ... is painting!
- Chorus* Eye spy, eye spy, I laugh, I cry
But when I paint, I fly! ... come and see my painting!
- Verse 2* There are colours out there, and colours in here
And a slumptious way to make them one
With creamy drips of shiny fun ... is painting!
- Chorus*
- Verse 4* There are monsters and suns, and fat currant buns
And a slooshious way to make them one
With sparkly splots of dribbly runs
And slippery blobs of whooshing fun ... is painting!

Activity Notes

Use this song stimulate your children creatively. Play it as they paint. What do they see in their world that they would like to paint? What colours do their feelings have?

The song also uses language in an imaginative way. Discuss with the children how we make up words and exaggerated expressions to describe something with enthusiasm. What words can they invent? Can they invent words that also *sound* like the things they are representing? – the examples in this song are:

- Preciscious
- Mystifull
- Concertrating
- Slumptious
- Slooshious

What do the children think these words are trying to say?



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Track 2



Fuss on the Bus

by Radha Sahar

Chorus Some people make a fuss on the bus
 A fuss on the bus, a fuss on the bus
 Some people make a fuss on the bus
 And they won't sit still and quiet!

The actions for each verse, below ...

Verse 1 The babies they go 'Wah, wah wah
 Wah, wah, wah! Wah, wah, wah!
 The babies they go 'Wah, wah wah!
 And they won't sit still and quiet! ... Chorus ...

Rock an imaginary baby, dramatising a crying expression as you sing 'Wah, wah, wah!'

Verse 2 The toddlers they go 'Mummy I want!
 Daddy I want! Mummy I want!
 The toddlers they go 'Mummy I want...'
 And they won't sit still and quiet! ... Chorus ...

Point in the air at what "I want" ...

Verse 3 The school kids they go 'Giggle, giggle giggle ...'
 ... Chorus ...

Laugh, and for those who enjoy it, perhaps tickle each other.

Verse 4 The college kids they go 'Turn it up man! ...'
 ... Chorus ...

Gesture turning up the volume on their players!

Verse 5 The grown ups they go 'Yabba, yabba, yabba! ...'
 ... Chorus ...

Open and close you hand to suggest chatting.

Verse 6 The old folk they say 'I remember when ...'
 ... Chorus ...

Cup ear in hand as if hard of hearing.

Activity Notes

This song, based on the theme of humanity, seems to have the 'x' factor: it is always popular with young children. Children can sit on their knees and bounce up and down while singing the chorus. The actions for each verse are listed above.

Should the children get too carried away with tickling and laughing during the school kids verse, the adults can clap along loudly with the chorus to bring the children's attention back to singing.

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Track 3

Play Forever

by Radha Sahar

- Verse 1* I wish I didn't have to eat my dinner
Eating my dinner takes too much time
If I didn't have to eat my dinner
I could play forever!
- Verse 2* I wish I didn't have to go to the toilet
Going to the toilet takes too much time
If I didn't have to go to the toilet
I could play forever!
- Bridge* You say "Time to get ready, time to tidy my mess
Time to brush my teeth and time to dress"
You say "Come right away!" That just a minute won't hurt
I wish you wouldn't interrupt me, coz play is my *work!*
- Verse 3* I wish I didn't have to wash my hands
Coz washing my hands takes too much time
If I didn't have to wash my hands
I could play forever!
- Verse 4* I wish I didn't have to blow my nose
Blowing my nose takes too much time
If I didn't have to blow my nose
I could play forever! ... *Bridge* ...
- Verse 5* I wish I didn't have to go to sleep
Sleeping take up too much time
If I didn't have to go to sleep
I could play forever – I could play forever!

Activity Notes

This upbeat song is great to sing and dance to. Children will be able to learn the words in the verses and perhaps make up their own additional verses.

Discuss, 'Play is my work,' with the children. Ask them, "When do you feel you are working? What work do you do that you think is just as important as adults work? We all have to do many activities that we wish we didn't have to do - what things do *you* wish you didn't have to do? When do you think it's a good idea for adults to remind you that it's time to do something?"

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Track 4

Froggy Woggy

by Radha Sahar

Verse 1 Froggy Woggy, bright and green
It's you I really dig
On our television screen
You look VERY BIG

Chorus A-hum, a-hum, a-hum, a-hum, a-hum x2

Verse 2 But when I take a little walk
By the pond and stream
And call you "Froggy! Are you there?"
You're never in it seems ... *Chorus* ...

Verse 3 Wait a minute – what is that
Slippery blob of wet?
Is that you frog? Gee you're small
When you're not on the TV set ... *Chorus* ...

Verse 4 Froggy Woggy, bright and green
I love you're every feature
No wonder you're a superstar
You darling little ... glad to meet ya!

Activity Notes

Children's perceptions can be distorted when they are constantly experiencing the world on screen. This song addresses that dynamic. Froggy hops along, very small and fragile, reminding us that something much smaller than one expects can gift a great heart experience.

Children will easily be able to sing along with the 'a-hums' in the chorus. Musically, the 4th interval between the 'a' and the 'hum,' as in popular froggy folk songs, has been closed to a semitone so it is easier for the children to sing. Do the children know any frog folk tunes, such as *A Froggy Would a Wooing Go*, or *A Frog Went Walking on a Summer's Day*? We sang a pretend frog sound in the song. What kind of sound do the children think a frog makes? Some people say 'croak,' and others say 'ribbit'. Have the children heard and seen a real frog?

Children! Make a home movie, with Froggy Woggy as the star. You will need a roll of paper, and a cardboard box that's a little taller than the width of your paper roll. To make the movie screen, cut a square hole in one side of your box, then stand it up to face the viewers. To make the movie, draw a row of pictures along the roll of paper: one picture for each scene in the movie. Roll it up then open it out frame by frame, drawing it across the screen. How big should the frog be so people will be able to see it easily? Will you make your frog a bright colour? I bet your frog will be much bigger than a real frog!

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Track 5



Where is My Thumb?

by Radha Sahar

Verse 1 Where is my thumb? – Here I am!
Where is my thumb? – Here I am!
Hello to you, and hello again
Clap, clap, clap!

Verse 2 Where is my finger? ... etc

Verse 3 Where is my hand? ...

Verse 4 Where is my elbow? ...

Verse 5 Where is my toe? ...

Verse 6 Where is my knee? ...

Verse 7 Where is my thumb? ...

Activity Notes

Many young children enjoy the song, *Where is Thumbkin?* However, small children cannot manage to hold their fingers in some of the required positions. This song has been written for the developmental stage where large muscles are in dominant use in order that younger children can take part. It is paced so children can do the actions and sing together at a younger age than usual. It is also an excellent song for children with special needs.

Hide your hands, elbows, etc behind your back, then cover your toes or knees, then reveal them. Bring them out one at a time for each appropriate verse. The fun begins when you 'clap' with your elbows, toes and knees!

Do you want to add some verses? What else can you hide?



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Track 6



Spinning Around

by Radha Sahar

- Verse 1* See my pointy finger, my finger, my finger
See my pointy finger go spinning around
- Chorus* Clap them and slap them
Tap them and ZAP them
So sad when they're lost
So happy they're found!
- Verse 2* See my whirly arms go, my arms go ... etc
- Chorus*
- Verse 3* (fast) See my pointy finger, my finger, my finger ...
- Chorus*
- Verse 4* (slow) See my whirly arms go ...
- Chorus – x2*

Activity Notes

This simple action song follows on from *Where is My Thumb?* Young children will be able to learn it quickly. You can use it either as a 'sit' song, or to dance along to, in full body-action style.

Point your finger up and make circular movements in the air: one hand and then the other. On 'My whirly arms', spin your forearms around each other, first one way and then the other.

The chorus gives directions to follow: clap them, slap them (on knees?), tap them, and 'zap' them, (zoom your hand out whilst opening your fingers wide, from a previously closed fist). Singers can dramatise the last two lines by making a sad face, then a happy one.

The whole song repeats - quickly on the first verse then slowly. Act out being a bit 'crazy' at the end by wobbling your head, eyes or elbows, etc.

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Track 7



Grandma's Glasses

Trad. Verse 4 by Radha Sahar

- Verse 1* These are Grandma's glasses. This is Grandma's hat
This is the way she folds her arms and puts them in her lap
- Verse 2* These are Grand dads glasses ...
- Verse 3* These are baby's glasses ...
- Verse 4* These are my sunglasses. This is my sunhat
This is the way I rub in the sunscreen, covering every gap!

Activity Notes

We set this popular finger rhyme to music, adding a sun-safety verse. On each verse make the shape of glasses with your fingers around your eyes. Touch your head to indicate a hat, then fold your arms. On the last verse rub yourself all over with imaginary sunscreen.

Track 8



Little Kids

by Radha Sahar

- Verse 1* I said "Grandmother, you are old and wise – I want to be like you"
She said "That will come. Enjoy being young. I'd like to be like you, because" ...
- Chorus* Little kids are such fun. Little kids are loved by everyone
Little kids are such fun, fun. We all can help the little ones!
- Verse 2* I said "Grandfather, you are old and wise – I want to be like you"
He said "That will come. Enjoy being young. I'd like to be like you, because" ...
- Chorus*
- Verse 3* So we'll clap our hands for the little kids, laugh and play with the little kids
Tomorrow is yours. Let's hear the applause. We all can help the little ones! ...
- Chorus*

Activity Notes

Parents and teachers! There's a charming story behind this song. You will find it in the introduction.

Children! Sing along and clap. Talk about your grandparents. Whose parents are they? Talk about helping people who are younger than you are. Pre-schoolers often enjoy feeling big in relation to babies.

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Track 9

Agitator Twist

by Radha Sahar

Verse 1 Swish, swish, swish, I'm a washing machine
Washing machine, washing machine
Swish, swish, swish, I'm a washing machine
Do the agitator twist

Verse 2 Open up my lid and put the clothes in
Put the clothes in, put the clothes in
Open up my lid and put the clothes in
Do the agitator twist

Verse 3 Pour in the powder, sprinkle it round ... etc

Verse 4 Close my lid, pull the button to start ...

Verse 5 Wash and rinse and spin it around ...

Bridge Drain the water out of the hose
(Spoken) Take out the clothes, dry the clothes
Wear the clothes
Oh no! They're dirty again!

Verse 6 Swish, swish, swish, I'm a washing machine
Washing machine, washing machine
Swish, swish, swish, I'm a washing machine
Do the agitator twist like this
Do the agitator twist, everybody
Do the agitator twist!

Activity Notes

Kids love this vigorous action song. It is ideal for using up restless energy in a confined space as they move wildly on the spot. Try the following actions ...

- Dance and twist on the 'Swish, swish' verses and on each 'Do the agitator twist' line.
- On 'Open up my lid', stretch both hands up stiffly, then 'Put the clothes in.'
- Make pouring and sprinkling gestures on 'Pour in the powder, sprinkle it round'.
- For 'Close my lid, pull the button to start,' stretch arms up quickly, then down straight and stiff to represent a lid. Then make the imaginary gesture of pulling a button.
- Do the twist dance again through 'Wash and rinse and spin it around'.
- Dramatise each action in the spoken bridge: make your arms into a hose and make a 'shhhh' noise on 'Drain the water.' On 'Take out the clothes,' place them in an imaginary basket formed by arching one arm out in front of you. On 'Dry the clothes,' peg them onto an imaginary clothes line above you. Pretend to dress on 'Wear the clothes.' On 'Oh no! They're dirty again,' put hands on hips in frustration.



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Track 10



Clip Clap

by Radha Sahar

- Verse 1* Clip clap and doe se doe
Clip clap and tic tac toe
Show your style. Stamp and smile
And then we tumble down!
- Verse 2* Clip clap – hey, that’s neat!
Stand up – stomp the beat
Who needs a band? – just clap your hands
There’s a barn dance in our town
- Chorus* Clip clap ... tip your hat
Clip clap ... bring the cat!
Clip clap ... Ma and Pa
Clip clap ... He ha!
- Repeat verse 1*

Activity Notes

This full body action song is presented as a simple folk dance. All children enjoy clapping and stamping which are the main actions throughout the song. Add other actions such as pointing your toes, tipping your hat. Let the children move in their own way.

For a group of adults and children you could alternatively try holding hands and moving in a circle – though this is best done very casually, not forcing the children to hold hands, which can be a difficult skill for young ones.

You can also enjoy the actions while children are sitting. Adjust to what works – clapping, tumbling the arms down, etc.

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look in the *Dancing & Moving* page.

www.ucamusic.com





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Track 11



Milly Molly Mantis

by Radha Sahar

- Verse 1* Milly Molly Mantis green as green
The best praying mantis I have seen
- Chorus* You never will hurt me, you know I care
Insects are friends that are always there
- Verse 2* Billy Bolly Beetle brown as brown
I like the way you click as you walk around ... *Chorus* ...
- Verse 3* Dilly Daddy Long Legs thin as thin
Making up a web to catch flies in ... *Chorus* ...
- Verse 4* Dilly Dolly Dragonfly shine oh shine!
Show me your wings and I'll show you mine! ... *Chorus* ...
- Verse 5* Crawly little insect with six little legs
Climbing up the leaf to lay your eggs
You never will hurt me, you know I care
You and your friends are my kind of friends
Insects are friends that are always there

Activity Notes

Sing along or just enjoy listening to the sweet little nature song, picturing each insect in your mind. Here are more ideas that work well with *Milly Molly Mantis* ...

- Collect pictures of each insect and make a collage. Talk about each insect, its features and habits.
- How does each insect sound? If it doesn't make a sound that people can hear, how do you imagine it would sound?
- Experiment with percussion instruments to make your own insect sounds. Wood blocks and rasps are excellent, plus you could explore other sounds by experimenting with found objects in the room or outdoors.
- Go outdoors on a nature discovery walk looking for insects. What might you find?
- Talk about insects that can hurt humans. Then talk about how most insects do not harm us: they are our friends and we have no need to be afraid of our friends.



On our website you will find more *Exploring Nature* albums that feature the sounds of many creatures in the wild.
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Track 12

Birthday

by Radha Sahar

Verse 1 Soon it is someone's birthday
I wonder who it could be?
Someone's going to make
A birthday cake
With candles shining brightly
And there will be a party!

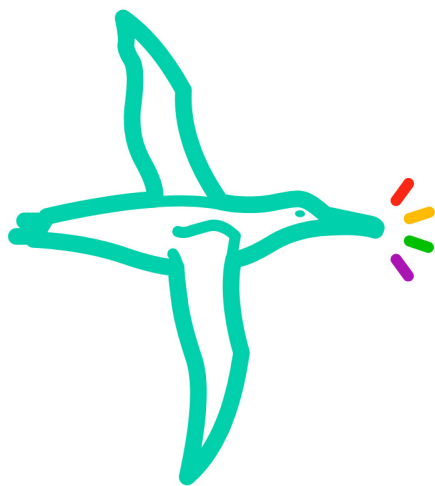
Verse 2 Soon it is someone's birthday
I wonder who it could be?
'Close your eyes!' we'll shout
'Blow the candles out!'
And we'll all sing Happy Birthday ...

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you
Happy birthday dear (...), happy birthday to you!

Activity Notes

In anticipation of the big day, this song provides a great opportunity to increase the birthday child's sense of enjoyment and self esteem. Start singing the song from time to time weeks ahead of the actual day. This is a great way to change dull moments into exciting ones.

Young children love acting out birthdays through imaginary activities such as making play-dough birthday cakes. A few birthday candles could be on hand for the play cake until the big day.



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Plus you will find the traditional
Happy Birthday song in Te Reo Maori
on the album *Nga Pihi 1* in the
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Track 13



Gimme Five

by Radha Sahar

- Chorus** Eyes, eyes, nose, mouth and ears and skin
Gimme five! I got five senses
- Verse 1** My eyes can see – wow! ... *Chorus* ...
- Verse 2** My eyes can see – wow!
My nose can smell – (sniff, tishoo!) ... *Chorus* ...
- Verse 3** My eyes can see – wow!
My nose can smell – (sniff, tishoo!)
My mouth can taste (slurp) ... *Chorus* ...
- Verse 4** My eyes can see – wow!
My nose can smell – (sniff, tishoo!)
My mouth can taste (slurp)
My ears can hear – (What did you say?) ... *Chorus* ...
- Verse 5** My eyes can see – wow!
My nose can smell – (sniff, tishoo!)
My mouth can taste (slurp)
My ears can hear – (What did you say?)
My skin can feel
One, two, three, four, five!

Activity Notes

The young child's world is largely a sensory experience. Most early learning is based in the body's senses. This song articulates that foundational learning while helping children grow in conscious awareness of each of the five senses. This song is very popular with young children and those with special needs.

Talk about the senses with children – how else do we use our senses? What do people do to help them hear or see if they cannot hear or see well. What do they do when they cannot hear or see almost anything?

Enjoy trying the following actions as you sing ...

- Gently touch the eyes, nose, mouth and ears. Swish your hands in a long gesture down your body and back up again on 'skin.' To support that gesture sing the word 'skin' swooping up and down the musical scale. Just follow the sound with your hands.
- Do the 'Gimme Five' gesture with a partner while those words are sung at the end of each chorus.



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Track 14

The Thing

by Radha Sahar

- Verse 1** One day I decided to make secret things in my room
With the door shut tight in case Mum might
See what I was doing
Found some glue, string and fur
(I was sick of all my toys)
"Mum said 'What's going on in there?
What is all that noise?'"
- Chorus** Wuk, wuk, yippy-yappy doodle. Grrrrr clap, clap, clap
Wuk, wuk, yippy-yappy doodle
Tick tock, tick tock ice block SSSSS
Wuk, wuk, yippy-yappy doodle. Grrrrr clap, clap, clap
Wuk, wuk, yippy-yappy doodle - was that a kiss?
- Verse 2** I called to Mum "Are you ready to come
And see what I have made?" – Surprise!
Don't be scared – it just *looks* weird
You see it's got friendly eyes"
A spiny tail like a dinosaur, yellow feet like a duck
Fluffy ears like shaggy dog hair.
It was rough and and glued and stuck, and it went ... *Chorus ...*
- Verse 3** Makes a noise like a hundred boys
But sometimes The Thing is shy
If the kids tease "What's ya name please?"
It looks like it might cry
But then it will hiss and blow you a kiss – just for you
A ducky doggy dragon stuck together
You can make one too – and we'll both go ... *Chorus ...*

Activity Notes

This song stimulates the child's imagination and inspires creativity. It is a fun song to listen to, in the style of 'The Marvellous Toy.' However in this song we encourage the children to make a marvellous toy themselves.

Firstly, encourage them to listen to the song, picturing the activities the child in the song is doing and what he or she is making.. Then gather materials together for children to make a 'Thing' themselves. What materials would the children like to add to those mentioned in the song?

Have a discussion with the children about toys. Are expensive toys always their favourite? What things have they made themselves that they enjoy playing with? Reinforce the feeling that creating things ourselves is fun. Acknowledge the children's creativity while they are in the process of making something.

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Track 15



Puddy Wooda

by Radha Sahar

- Verse 1** Sitting at the window, looking like a statue
Meowing as you meet me, curling round my leg
Frisking in the wind, running sideways!
Black eyes like saucers – itchy twitchy ears
- Chorus** Hey Puddy Wooda, Puddy Wooda, Puddy Wooda x2
- Verse 2** Staring at the fridge door – hopeful sort of face
Thinking it will open – purring just in case!
Wash yourself all over, little pink tongue
Lazy, curly fur ball snoozing in the sun ... *Chorus ...*
- Verse 3** Scratching at the back door – always let you in
Pick you up and pat you, scratch your little chin
I'm so big and clumsy. You're so small and fine
Makes me talk all silly! I'm cuckoo all the time! ... *Chorus x2 ...*

Activity Notes

This song was written as a poem then set to music with a sing-song refrain linking the verses.

Talk about cats. Do you have one? What does your cat do? Does it sound like the one in the song? Do Mum and Dad use a special voice when they talk to the cat? Do you? How can we be gentle with cats and other animals?

Puddy Wooda eats from the fridge - but it is also natural for cats to hunt. Talk about how cats kill rats, mice and birds. Killing birds harms the environment. There are other furry pets we can love too. What type of furry pets could children keep that do not harm the environment? Guinea pigs? Perhaps the children could contribute ideas to a plan to keep the family cat indoors at night to reduce bird-kill.

Do a drawing of what you think Puddy Wooda looks like.
Sing along in the chorus!



On our website you will find other albums about caring for things: look in the *Building Character* page, and in *Exploring Nature*.

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Developing Imagination Activity Notes for Big Kids!

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Activity: Developing Imagination
Related Activity: Singing & Fun



Track 16

Cuddles

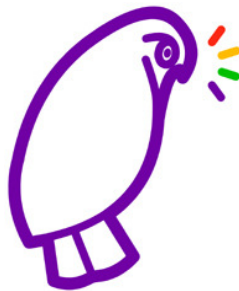
by Radha Sahar

- Verse 1* Cuddles are lovely, snuggle in and hide away
Cuddles make me feel Mum is never far away
- Chorus* I do not need a brand new toy
Or something grand to do
As I always feel so happy
With just a cuddle or two
- Verse 2* Cuddles are sniggly
When you're wrapped up warm and tight
Cuddles make me smile and know
That everything's alright ... *Chorus* ...
- Verse 3* Cuddles don't need numbers
You can start with only one!
If there's more than two then why not do
A circle hug for fun?
All the round the world those cuddles
Help people laugh and grow
Snuggle up and smile and in a while
You'll be there so glad to share
The loveliest, sniggliest place that's here:
Cuddles, cuddles – cuddles, cuddles!

Activity Notes

Cuddles is a great song to play during the daytime as well as at bedtime to help children relax and feel nurtured.

Ask the children, "When do you need cuddles," and "When can you help someone feel better by giving them a hug?" Talk about how we can give ourselves a hug. And why not try a circle hug? 😊



On our website you will find many other relaxing songs, and lullaby albums. Look in the *Rest & Relaxation* page.

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