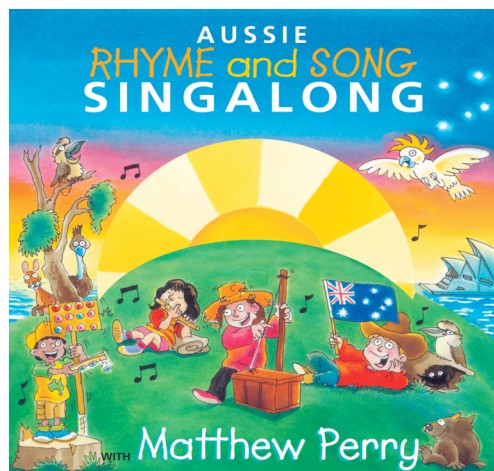




# TEACHER NOTES

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## **Aussie Rhyme and Song Singalong** with Matthew Perry



Each song and music activity on the CD and in the book reflects many of the outcomes of the performing and creative arts syllabus (NSW) and offers extension activities linking the performing arts to other key learning areas.

Through singing, playing, moving, listening, dancing, improvising, exploring and creating, teachers and students will be able to enhance early stage one skills across a wide variety of subject areas.

*Aussie Rhyme and Song Singalong* aims to assist teachers and students to:

- have fun with a variety of music and movement activities
- develop creativity and self-expression
- promote confidence, self-esteem and performance skills
- enhance listening, social and language skills
- learn new songs, dances and music.

The following activities are general and appropriate as extension activities for students for most songs in the book and on the CD:

### **MUSIC/DANCE**

- Students maintain a sense of beat while singing or listening to the songs using body percussion or stepping.
- Teacher says or sings the words of the song line by line and students echo voice.
- Teacher and students play along using a variety of percussion instruments and take turns to perform for each other.
- Experiment with different ways of using your voice as you sing: whispering, operatic, chipmunk etc.
- Teacher identifies simple musical features and asks questions: What instrument is that? Is this fast or slow? Is this a verse or a chorus?
- Explore musical concepts of high/low, fast/slow, soft/loud and students add own movements as they vary the performances of songs.

## **ART/CRAFT**

- Students paint, draw or colour responses to songs.
- Students build, construct, make and play with a variety of materials to form a sculpture representing a scene from a song.
- Students and teacher collaborate to make an Australian flag from coloured paper or cardboard while singing.
- Make a collage of Australian leaves, flowers and bark.
- Trace the texture of a gumtree trunk and the shape of different eucalypt leaves.
- Students make own instruments from recycled materials.

## **DRAMA/MOVEMENT**

- Students participate in imaginative play using a character or an object mentioned in a song: shearer, swagman etc.
- Students dress up as characters from a song they sing.
- Students use mime to show the movement of different Australian animals: kangaroos, emus, dingos etc.
- Make use of dramatic talk: giving instructions to a sheepdog, speaking 'Strine' etc.
- Use space in dramatic play: inside a shearing shed — Where are the shears? Where is the bale? Where are the sheep? etc.

## **LITERACY/LANGUAGE**

- Teacher uses the illustrations in the book as a discussion starter and explores ideas. Students contribute.
- Discuss students' performances of the songs.
- Use key words as a window into letter formation, handwriting and spelling.
- Students create a story about one of the characters or places in a song and perform it.
- Use a verse or chorus of a song to show examples of rhyming words and students make up their own.
- Read to your students associated works by Australian authors and poets.

## **SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY**

- Explore and discuss aspects of the Australian environment: sun, water, forests, oceans etc.
- Discuss foods that we grow on our farms.

- Sort and classify different types of Australian mammals, reptiles, birds, fish, insects etc.
- Identify the basics of how sound is created and experiment with students making sounds with everyday objects.
- Use a computer to search for pictures of Australian life and discuss them.

## **HUMAN SOCIETY/ENVIRONMENT**

- Discuss jobs that Australians do/did outdoors/indoors in the past/present.
- Explore how and where Australians live: coast, desert, mountains, country, city etc.
- Learn more about the traditional life of our indigenous population.
- Track the movement of people from other countries to Australia and explore immigration and our colonial heritage.
- Make a list of things that are unique to Australia: flora, fauna, icons, foods etc.
- Identify different Australian jobs: farmers, miners etc.
- Examine ways we can protect and preserve our environment.

## **HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

- Name and learn more about some of our sporting heroes in cricket, swimming, tennis, soccer etc.
- Invent an exercise routine to perform as you listen to a song. Students take turns to perform, adding their own ideas.
- Explore nutrition and link various food types back to their origins: milk from cows, bread from wheat etc.
- Discuss the importance of a balance between exercise, diet and rest for a healthy lifestyle.
- Explore ways Australians relax.

## **NUMBER/MEASUREMENT/SPACE**

- Use the illustrations in the book to pose simple counting questions, such as: How many birds can you see?
- Students count the number of beats from one to eight in their favourite as they sing.
- Use the song 'Blue Bottles' to explore the concept of taking away.
- Create counting flash cards with students using pictures of Australian animals cut from magazines.
- Students count the number of verses and choruses in songs.

### **About the author**

Childhood music educator Matthew Perry has worked in schools for 20 years, teaching music to preschoolers through to year 12 students. Matthew has written musicals and music-education resources that are performed throughout Australia and overseas. He also works as a composer, conductor and pianist, and is the creator of *Aussie Rhyme and Song Singalong*.