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ONLINE STORYTIME
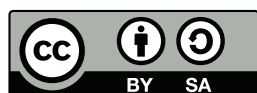
Music and Rhyme Guide

Online Storytime Music and Rhyme Guide

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Music and Rhyme: Why included them in Online Storytimes?

Reading to children is a crucial part of their early literacy and numeracy development, and music and rhyme also play a vital role. Music is tied to the development of early literacy, numeracy and emotional skills and the benefits children experience when music is incorporated into daily life are unparalleled (QLD Gov.: Department of Education, 2020).

Singing and music help develop the left side of the brain, which is responsible for language and reasoning skills (SLQ, 2020a). Incorporating music and singing into Storytime sessions can help children to gain an understanding of rhythm, pitch, volume, tone and patterns, all of which are essential components of speech (State Gov. Victoria: Department of Education and Training, 2019).

Nursery rhymes have many benefits for cognitive and physical development of children. There are 44 sounds to be mastered in order to talk, and nursery rhymes contain all 44 of these sounds (SLQ, 2021). Nursery rhymes use repetition, which allows children to hear individual sounds multiple times, remember them and then use them. Nursery rhymes also help to enhance fine and gross motor skills and hand-eye coordination through the movements that accompany them, which in turn support reading and writing (SLQ, 2020b).

Using rhyme and music in Online Storytime programs enhances the benefits that the program already delivers to early literacy development. The resources in this guide will assist your library to incorporate copyright safe music and rhymes into existing Online Storytime programs, supporting children's early years learning experience.

For more information of the benefits of music and rhyme for children aged 0-5 check out State Library of Queensland's First Five Forever program at www.slq.qld.gov.au/first5forever.

Early Literacy Education:
The role of the public library

'Families read, play, sing, and communicate with their child/ren from birth, and have a home environment that embraces and encourages learning.' – Priority one goal of the Proposed National Early Language and Literacy Strategy (2021, p. 27).

Parents and caregivers play the most significant role in helping babies build a strong foundation for future learning, and libraries play an important role by supporting families through activities, resources, ideas and social connection (Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, 2016). Activities that libraries offer demonstrate examples of early years education and empower parents to continue and adapt them at home. Early childhood library programs such as storytelling, singing, and rhyme times contribute to achieving the first goal of the Proposed National Early Literacy Strategy.

Inclusivity:
Keeping your community in mind

When incorporating music, rhymes, and sound effects into Online Storytime it is important to keep your audience in mind to ensure the program is inclusive and meeting the specific needs of community members. Using music and rhyme has many benefits but needs to be tailored to the audience including those with physical disabilities, neurodiverse needs and CaLD communities.

Copyright:
What do I need to consider?

If you choose to use music, rhymes and sound effects for Online Storytime programs copyright needs to be taken into consideration. Copyright protects the rights of creators of music and lyrics and controls the way in which their work is used. This may mean that a work cannot be used without permission (APRA AMCOS, 2021). Usually to perform or record songs you need permission from the copyright holder, pay a fee for a licence.

This guide provides resources that are copyright safe and can be incorporated into Online Storytime sessions. When using these resources ensure to check what licence is attached to them. Many of these databases use Creative Commons licences which have different permissions for what you can and cannot do with a particular work.

Find out more about Creative Commons licences here: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/

Read more about copyright:

Australasian Performing Right Association Limited and Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society (APRA AMCOS): https://www.apraamcos.com.au/

Australian Libraries and Archives, Copyright Coalition (ALACC): https://alacc.org.au/

Music Rights Australia: http://www.musicrights.com.au/

ALIA offers a **Copyright 101** course at a discounted rate for Members which can be found here: https://www.alia.org.au/EventDetail?EventKey=COPY21

Resource List

Copyright/Royalty Free and Public Domain Resources

Music

Depending on the licence, music in these databases can be used to add background music to Online Storytime videos or to create new songs. Not all the licences allow derivative works to be created, so always check the licencing information for each work. As a general rule when crediting a piece of music it is best to include title, author, licence type, and source (usually a link back to the original website).

Bensound

https://www.bensound.com/

Bensound has songs available for use in multimedia projects (online videos, websites, animations) free of charge as long as credit is given. This database cannot be used to create remixes or songs.

CC Mixter

http://dig.ccmixter.org/

Community made remixes and samples licensed under various Creative Commons licenses. Songs are free to download and use but check the licence attached to it to ensure it can be used for the purposes you have in mind.

Free Music Archive

https://freemusicarchive.org/genre/Kid-Friendly

Free Music Archive offers free downloads under Creative Commons licences. Ensure you check the licence type as this will tell you what you can and cannot do with a given piece of music.

YouTube Audio Library

youtube.com/audiolibrary

A collection of royalty free production music and sound effects to use in YouTube videos. This database is free and copyright safe and is accessible in the YouTube Studio to add to videos during the editing phase.

Zapsplat, Royalty free children's music

https://www.zapsplat.com/sound-effect-category/childrens/

Royalty free children's music which is free to download and use as long as credit is given. This music can be used for the purposes of Online Storytime but cannot be used to create remixes or used to make a new song.

Rhyme

These rhymes are in the public domain under US copyright law, whilst it is most likely it will be the same in Australia it is best to double check before using them. Works are public domain if the creator died before 1 January 1955 (National Library of Australia, n.d.). If a rhyme is public domain, you can also create new, Australian lyrics.

Bussongs.com

www.bussongs.com

Bussongs.com has a collection of children's songs, lullabies and nursery rhymes. While most of the songs are older and out of copyright, it is best to do some research to check the status of the copyright as some material is newer.

Public Domain Information Project

www.pdinfo.com/pd-music-genres/pd-children-songs.php

A list of public domain rhymes under US copyright law. The list is US based but can help find suitable rhymes and melodies for Online Storytime.

Project Gutenberg – The Real Mother Goose

www.gutenberg.org/files/10607/10607-h/10607-h.htm

This is a public domain e-book of rhymes that can be used for performances, creation of derivative works, research, or reports. These rhymes are public domain under US copyright law.

Sound effects

Sound effects can be used to enhance an Online Storytime reading, such as adding a sound when you turn a page or inserting the sounds of animals or a knock on the door. Most of the databases listed below have a search function which will allow you to look up specific sound effects.

Free music archives

https://freemusicarchive.org/genre/Sound_Effects

Free downloads under Creative Commons licences. Click on the song title to view the licence.

Freesound

https://freesound.org/

Sounds in this database are copyright protected under Creative Commons licences. Check each sound for the individual licence.

Zapsplat free sound effects

https://www.zapsplat.com/sound-effect-categories/

Sound effects on Zapsplat require attribution, either a credit or link back to the website. The sounds on this site can be used for commercial, non-commercial and broadcast productions such as in YouTube videos, theatrical performances and live shows.

Paid/Subscription services

Fugue

https://icons8.com/music/categories/kids

A database of copyright free songs that can be used for non-commercial works as long as credit is given.

Epidemic Sound

https://www.epidemicsound.com/

Subscription sound effects library that gives users the rights to synchronise music in videos provided that credit is given. There are different subscription levels available.

Pond5

https://www.pond5.com/

A subscription music and sound effects library that offers different licence and subscription tiers.

APRA AMCOS Licence

If none of these options are suitable you can contact APRA AMCOS directly to discuss getting a licence to use music within their repertoire. Call: (02) 9935 7900, Email: medialicensing@apra.com.au

Singing tips from ALIA School Librarian Jacqui Lucas

"The wonderful thing about music and singing is the more you practice the better you get."

- There are some really good singing-in-tune apps. Sing True is free and tells you what note you're singing and teaches you to match pitch
- Actively **listen** as you sing
- Record yourself singing – it can be difficult to listen back to at first but it DOES get easier!
- Use a digital instrument tuner to see how well you hold and sustain a pitch

Tips for parents

- Choose a time to sing – bath time, cleaning up, mealtime
- Make up songs about everyday things, even if the tune is a single note
- Move when you sing (it helps reduce thought)
- Sing in the car
- Build up a repertoire
- Just do it! Your child will love it!

Supporting children to sing

- Try to start on the same note
- Sing high if you can
- Repeat, repeat, repeat – children may not join in at first
- Not too fast – only needs your pulse
- Use rhythm freely: pause on the first note and be playful with timing
- Use movement: bounce on knee, step in time, pat your shoulder
- Create a mood, be playful and enjoy yourself!

How to use these resources

These resources can enhance Online Storytime and inspire creativity. While many public domain nursery rhymes have a US focus, library staff are encouraged to create their own lyrics. Do keep in mind that young children thrive on repetition, so if you change lyrics make sure to keep the song in your repertoire and not to change lyrics every session.

If you have any lyrics you've made up to a rhyme or even created any songs, please send them through for other libraries to use. Before sending through your work ensure to attach a Creative Commons licence to it to specify how your work can be used. To make your own Creative Commons licence follow this link: https://creativecommons.org/choose/.

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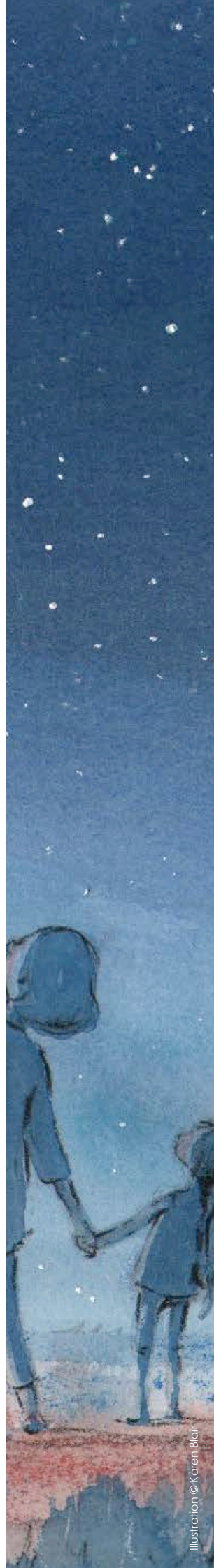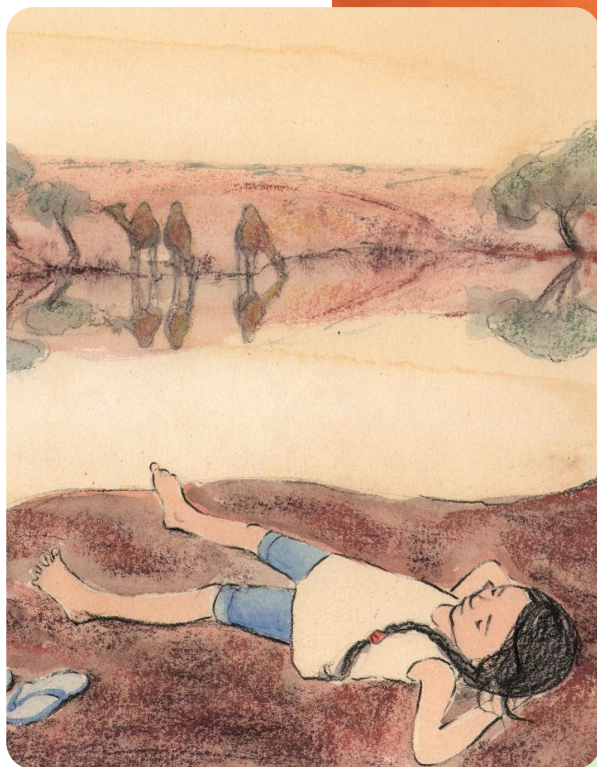
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