

SING A SONG ABOUT ANIMALS

ACTIVITY IDEAS



1 WE'D LIKE TO SAY HELLO (Ringrose)

Beginnings and endings are important for children and it is a good idea to teach them ways to begin and end things. This is part of their emotional development and through their lives they will be in many situations where they are starting or finishing things. If they learn to avoid beginnings and endings they will carry a lot of excess baggage with them.

Hello, Hello, We'd like to say hello to you
Hello, Hello, We'd like to say hello to you

Kia ora, Kia ora, Tena koutou tena koutou
Kia ora, Kia ora, Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

2 THE BOAT SANK (Ringrose)

This song could be used as a rhythm activity for the chorus and during the verse simple pictures of the animals could be held up or pointed to. The child or adult could draw the pictures or you could use clip art.

Who sank the boat? Who sank the boat?
I wonder who it was
Who sank the boat? Who sank the boat?
I wonder who it was

Was it the horse was it the pig
Or was it her mother the sow
Was it the rabbit or was it the dog
With his bow wow wow

Was it the donkey was it the goat
Was it the cow with her bell
Was it the hen or was it the sheep
When the boat sank we all heard a yell

Was it the possum was it the duck
Was it the snail with her house
Was it the ant or was it the bee
Or was it the tiny wee mouse

Who sank the boat? Who sank the boat?
I think it was the horse
Who sank the boat? Who sank the boat?
We all know of course

3 DONKEY (Ringrose)

Have children crawl around on all fours slowly so that they are like a donkey walking. They could also have a "load" to carry as well on their backs. When the verses suggest donkey actions the children could do these as well. Turn left and right, head up and head down.

This song also has a good beat for rhythm activities.

Chorus:

There's a donkey on the street
He looks so neat
Always on the go
A donkey on the street
He looks so neat
But gee he walks so slow

1:

He turns to the right
The corner's so tight
No trouble at all
He turns to the left
That's the way to go
Then he says, "Hee Haw, Hee Haw,
Hee Haw"

2:

He puts his head down
Nearly touches the ground
There's nothing there at all
He puts his head high
There's a twinkle in his eye
Then he says, "Hee Haw, Hee Haw,
Hee Haw"

4 THE COW SAYS "MOO" (Ringrose)

The parent can use this as a massage for the child, doing "milking" on the limbs.

The child can crawl around and pretend to eat grass. Walk and then put the head down to eat, then walk some more.

**We have a cow called Daisy
And she gives milk to us
She has four legs
She says "Moo"
And she eats lots of grass**

**Cows say "Moo"
Cows say "Moo"
Cows say "Moooo"**

5 GORDON THE GOAT (McTell)

This song has an excellent beat and can be used for rhythm activities

6 RABBITS HOP (Ringrose)

Have the children rabbit hop around the space. It is excellent for muscle tone and a good vestibular activity.

**Rabbits hop rabbits hop
Rabbits hop all day**

7 HORSE GET ABOUT (Grigg/Ringrose)

Walk, trot and gallop around. When the music says, head up etc have the children put their head up and down.

**Horses walking walking walking
Horses walking everywhere
Horses walking walking walking
Horses walking here and there
Head up, head down
Head up turn around**

**Horses trotting trotting trotting
Horses trotting everywhere
Horses trotting trotting trotting
Horses trotting here and there
Head up, head down
Head up turn around**

**Horses galloping, galloping, galloping
Horses galloping everywhere
Horses galloping galloping galloping
Horses galloping here and there
Head up, head down
Head up turn around**

8 ALL THE LITTLE DUCKS (Trad)

This song can be used to get children to go upside down. Have the older children bend over and look through their legs. Younger children may be able to be turned upside down by an adult.

**All the little ducks go upside down
Upside down, upside down
All the little ducks go upside down
As they dabble at the bottom of the pond.**

9 FOX SLINK ALONG (Ringrose)

Move around, crawling preferably, in a slow, low, slinking way.

Fox slink along

10 KATIE THE KOALA (Bunston)

11 OOGA CHUGGA (Butts/Demarest)

These songs (10 & 11) are useful for rhythm activities. They have a strong beat and are at a good speed for the children to be able to keep in time.

12 PANDA (Ringrose)

The children lie on the ground and roll for the chorus. For the verse crawl around on all fours.

**Panda panda panda panda...
A panda is black and white and lives in China
They roll in the leaves
They roll in the leaves
They roll here they roll there
They roll everywhere
In the hills of China**

13 PLATYPUS (Callister)

Creep around on tummy being a platypus. This is also a useful rhythm activity.

14 POSSUM (Caswell/Spencer)

Another rhythm activity song

Crawl around with hands and feet on the ground, Walking and running this way. Having something for the child to crawl up would be good as well. A sofa, pillows or similar. This is excellent for muscle tone.

15 RATTLE SNAKE (Trad)

Make a line of children and walk around in a spiral, turn and walk out of the spiral so that children pass each other.

Rattle snake, rattle snake

Sliding through the tall dry grass

16 SEALS SWIM (Ringrose)

I'm a seal, I'm a swimmer

I swim in the sea by the coast

I'm a seal, I'm a swimmer

And swimming's what I like the most

(Lie on tummy and make swimming movements with arms and legs)

I slither around on my tummy

Over the rocks across the sand

I slither around on my tummy

Over the rocks across the sand

(Creep around on the floor with tummy maintaining contact with the ground)

I'm a seal.....

I'm going to lie very still is the sun

I'm going to lie very still is the sun

I'm going to lie very still is the sun

(Lie still)

I slither around.....

I'm a seal.....

17 ANIMAL MOVES (Grigg/Ringrose)

Move around freely for the chorus. When the instrumental section plays have the children move in a way of one of the animals.

Animals walk fly slide and crawl

Animals walk fly slide and crawl

Animals walk fly slide and crawl

What's this animal doing?

18 SHE'S A LEOPARD (Ringrose)

This is another good rhythm activity song or children could crawl around for some verses and then keep the beat for other verses.

She's a leopard

She's a leopard

And she's covered in spots

And she's a really fabulous cat

She's a leopard

She's a leopard

And she's covered in spots

If she were all black then she'd be a panther

She's a leopard

She's a leopard

And she's covered in spots

If her spots were striped

Then she'd be a tiger

She's a leopard

She's a leopard

And she's covered in spots

If she had no spots then she'd be a lion

She's a leopard

She's a leopard

And she's covered in spots

And she's a really fabulous cat

19 STRIPES (Ralph McTell)

Rhythm activities work well with this song.



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20 I'M A GREAT BIG LION (Grigg/Ringrose)

Another opportunity to crawl slowly and stop to roar and show your claws.

I'm a great big lion

Creeping through the jungle

I've got big teeth and claws

And I'm creeping through the jungle

I'm a great big lioness

Creeping through the jungle

I've got big claws and teeth

And I'm creeping through the jungle

I'm a tiny lion cub

bouncing through the jungle

I've got small claws and teeth

And I'm creeping through the jungle

We are great big lions

Creeping through the jungle

We've got big teeth and claws

And we're creeping through the jungle

21 HORSE IN STRIPED PJS (Unknown)

Rhythm activities will work well with this song

22 THE TIGER IS A VERY CLEVER CAT

(Ringrose)

Crawling actions or rhythm activities.

The tiger is a very clever cat

Creeping through the jungle

The tiger is a very clever cat

Creeping through the jungle (repeat)

The tiger has black and gold stripes

Very hard to see in the jungle

The tiger has black and gold stripes

Very hard to see in the jungle

The tiger rests beneath the tree

It's very very hot in the jungle

He can also climb to the top of that tree

A very clever cat in the jungle

23 WALKING THROUGH THE FOREST

(Grigg/Ringrose)

For the chorus have the children do low, slow creeping sort of walking. The verses are different animals

Walking through the forest

What do you see

If you hear a noise

What will it be

Well I think it was a monkey (3x)

Looking for a meal

Well I think it was a deer (3x)

Looking for a meal

24 MATILDA THE GORILLA (Mary Rice)

For the verse do a rhythm activity.

For the chorus Make gorilla actions.

A oo oo oo (hands in arm pits)

Aahh aahh aahh (Hands up and turned in to make a circle above head. Move arms side to side - gorilla style.)

Very young children will sing the chorus.

25 ZOO IN MY HOUSE (S Browne)

Another good song for rhythm activities

26 IT'S TIME FOR US TO GO

(Grigg/Hazledine)

As with beginnings, endings are also very important. Life has a beginning, a middle and an end as with all things that we do.

Also a note here about making sure that the children you work with have some time for their brain to relax, absorb and work with the information they have gained. Down time for brains is essential for effective learning. Remember to do this for their brains.



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WWW.TESSAROSE.CO.NZ

Tessarose Productions, Freepost 100773, P.O. Box 4461, Christchurch, New Zealand