



# Newsletter

## Summer 2009

**Dear all!** Welcome to the summer term **Bongalong** newsletter. We hope you and your babies/children are enjoying the sessions so far this term. A newsletter comes out each term, giving practical information as well as the ways the session content is supporting your child/ren's development.

As ever, familiar songs have played an important role in the sessions this term. Songs such as **Five Little Monkeys, Wheels on the Bus** and **Five Little Speckled Frogs** have given children a chance to **develop their confidence through helping at the front with props or with instruments**. The **Scarecrow** song will have helped their **understanding of dynamics - soft and loud** - as well as **develop their coordination through joining in with the movements**.

Imaginations have been stimulated by the storytelling in **Bunny Foo Foo** and by having a **Laugh in the Bath**. Using ideas from children in a song like **Laugh in the Bath** not only **encourages their imagination**, but also **stimulates and develops their vocabulary and confidence** as their ideas are acknowledged and used.

Numerical skills are obviously encouraged in songs which require counting, such as **Five Little Monkeys, Five Little Speckled Frogs** and **This Old Man**. Repetition and repeating patterns of movements in these songs and many others also **develop mathematical skills such as sequencing**.

We have used our listening skills too. In **Sound Song Groove**, everyone was encouraged to listen to and make both loud and soft sounds. Even at a very young age, **babies will be able to hear the difference between loud and soft sounds, as well as the unexpected silence** in this song or in a dancing game when the music (and movement) stops! We have also listened to soloists playing the metallaphone in the middle of a song, **promoting the idea of performance and the active and supportive role an audience has in a performance**.

With the summer holidays approaching, we have been thinking about travel - in our games about how to reach your holiday destination, and the things you might find under the sea. In our song about the seaside, we have developed **an awareness of planning** by seeing what you might need to take with you on holiday and where that might mean you're going. We have also been exploring **instruments from different parts of the world**, and **taking turns** in making music with them for others to dance along to.

Music can stimulate so many areas of early development: **singing songs helps language development and memory**. Music is **fun to share** with your child: remember the sessions are for you as well as them! Sing at home, in the car, in the bath - in the supermarket if you dare! **Sing songs you know, and make your own**. Play listening, dancing and movement games; make instruments and stories to stimulate, soothe or calm. Above all, **have fun!**

### Instruments!

*We have ordered a selection of instruments for you to buy, which will be on display when they arrive. These will be the same as the instruments we use in the sessions: they are not toys, but much more durable and produce a more satisfying sound. So watch this space!*

### For Sale

*Remember you can buy CDs and T-shirts as well! Songs featured on the CD from this term include: Music Makers Band and Walking Along.*

*Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for all your support this term. Booking forms for the autumn term are out this week. We do hope you continue with us and tell your friends about us too. Any queries please contact Asha on: **07811 460282** or **asha.bongalong@googlemail.com***