

Braindump re Sandy's children's songs

Background

I have been working as a casual with children aged 0-6 years in long daycare for over 5 years. I sing nursery rhymes and other children's songs as part of my interaction with the children.

My songs mostly began spontaneously, using existing tunes in my head, in 2008. I have sung these to children in 5 centres and had favourable responses. Some songs involve simple actions.

I am neither a trained singer, nor a musician. I could sing the songs on the recordings, but am not attached to this idea. One song needs male, female and group voices.

Relevance

My songs reflect everyday childcare situations such as

- Reassuring children/giving them a sense of time
- Giving instructions (children listen when they are sung!)
- Empowering children (based on observations of their issues)
- Improving literacy, numeracy, musicality, health, exercise; developing fine & gross motor skills
- Entertainment

Additionally, the Australian childcare industry has introduced the National Quality Framework/Early Years Learning Framework in 2012 with an emphasis on children Being, Belonging and Becoming. I believe my songs contribute to children's development in these areas.

Vision

"Publish" the songs in audio, print, and maybe video in a simple, yet professional manner (think "Playschool")

- For children (reasons above)
- As a teaching resource in childcare
- As a teaching/learning resource for English as a second language
- To promote a better tomorrow

Method of "publishing"

We briefly discussed various options including

- Distribution by Australian organizations who service childcare organizations through training, publications, music, toys, etc
- You-tube video
- I-tunes download
- Website – PDF of instructions
- Combination of the above

Resources/Costs

I understand you, Wayne, can provide musicians (including yourself); are able to record sound and/or video; and can upload to internet.

I have limited financial resources, so would need to agree a budget, and do things cost-effectively.

Scope/Remuneration

The focus is on getting it widely distributed and used at an affordable price.

The internet would enable this to be worldwide. (e.g. a friend in Argentina, who teaches English as a second language, is already interested)

Whilst the object is not primarily to make money from it

- I don't want someone else to use it and make money from it without getting any financial benefit myself
- People tend to respect and use things more when they pay for it rather than getting it for free
- I believe there should be an energy exchange of some sort

I am not seeking to get "something for nothing" from you/other musicians involved. I feel that you should be reimbursed for any costs, and benefit from any money made.

Charity

I am happy for money raised to go to charity. My preference would be children's charity & literacy.

I will have to investigate further how this can be done.

[At some point I would like to have my own self-funded, sustainable charitable foundation which empowers people, particularly young Australians. I have some ideas for this, including involving my creative pursuits of dancing, books, children's stories, guided meditations, poetry, card design, inspiration ... and songs? None of these are published commercially at this time.]

Copyright

I would want to ensure that there is no breach of copyright with the tunes. All the song lyrics are original (though not sure about the Swimming song – if it is a development of an existing song.)

Material Available

I have the lyrics written. The actions for Counting and Swimming songs are in my head. I have made some notes on the relevance of each to the National Quality Framework, i.e. skills/benefits.

Songs

<i>Child tested</i>	<i>Song</i>	<i>Tune</i>	<i>Demo actions</i>
Yes	Counting to 20	Twinkle little star	Yes
Yes	Cover your nose/mouth	Yellow brick road (Wizard of Oz)	?
No	Empowerment (I am strong)	Hungry, Hungry *	No
No	Friends (pronouns)	?	No
Yes	Hat on	Frere Jacques	No
Yes	I can do it	Frere Jacques	No
Yes	Mummies and daddies are coming soon	Here we go round the mulberry bush	No
Yes	Please and thank you	Frere Jacques	No
Yes	Swimming	?	Yes
No	Words and feelings	Three blind mice	No
No	Exercise song	?	Yes

* Hungry, hungry is from Playschool's John Hamblin between 1970-1999 and is from The Super Supper March by Dr Seuss. Not sure if this is also the name of the tune.

Some songs are only 6 lines long (but could be repeated).

Next Steps

- Make demo recording for you to hear
- Distribute these notes to people who may be interested in being involved in the project
- Meet to discuss further