

Handa's Surprise

**A music-based learning
resource pack for families**

Here at darts, we wanted to make it easier for you to make music at home with the little people in your lives, so we have created a series of resource packs based around some of our favourite story books. Our musicians have come up with some creative ideas, songs and rhymes that you can do to bring the story to life. We have tried to cater for as many families as possible, so some of these activities are aimed at very young people, and some are aimed at slightly older children. These are only ideas, so feel free to pick the bits you like, change activities to suit you all and to add in anything that you think we have missed!

Most importantly, try not to worry about the music making – the interaction and communication with your child, encouraged by these ideas, is far more important than whether you sing the songs note perfect! Also, don't feel bad for repeating the same handful of songs that you feel confident with – repetition and familiarity are great at this stage and will encourage your child to join in at their own level – whether that be with speech, vocalisation and noises or physical gestures. Try repeating the activities at different speeds and with different voices to add variety.

We would love to see how you are using our resource pack – please tag us on social media using the details below.

Instagram - @wearedarts

Facebook - @wearedarts

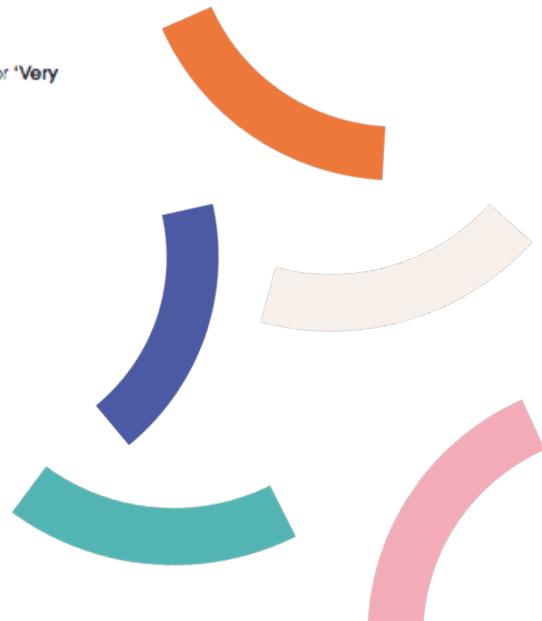
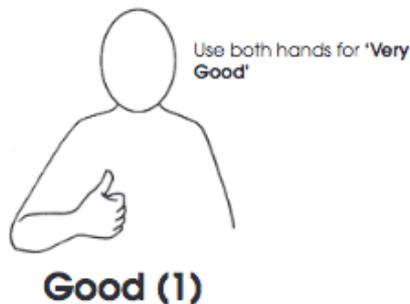
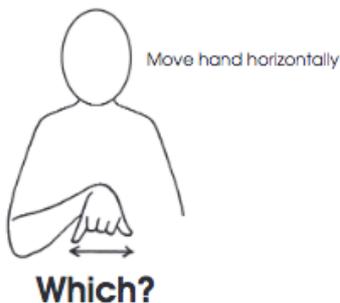
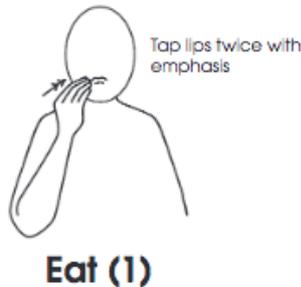
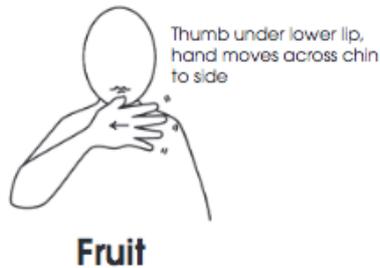
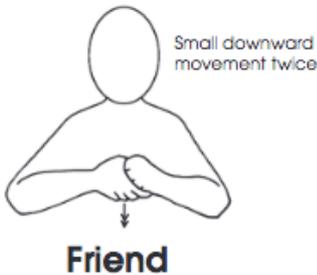
Twitter - @we_aredarts



Makaton

We are huge fans of Makaton here at darts and we like to incorporate Makaton into songs and stories wherever we can – especially when working with our young learners. We don't want to overload you with too many signs, but here are a few key signs to try at home.

This pack uses symbols and signs from the communication aid Makaton. Makaton symbols and signs are copyright of and used with kind permission of The Makaton Charity. For more information about Makaton, please visit www.makaton.org



Jambo Bwana!

Handa's Surprise is set in Kenya and it felt only fitting to start off our pack with a Kenyan hello song! The word 'Jambo' is a greeting in Swahili (the native language of Kenya) and this song is so catchy, that it will be stuck in your head all day!

I have included the lyrics below, but here is a YouTube clip that shows the lyrics and the translation (there are more advanced musical activity ideas included in this video too):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WogvJEfCKpM>

Here is a version that sings the words in Swahili and also English:

<https://youtu.be/kuel0qQir9Q>

Here is another version with lots of photos of Kenya and its wildlife:

<https://youtu.be/vUrVeRGo5IM>

Translation of Jambo bwana lyrics

Jambo – Hi

Jambo bwana – Hi sir

Habari gani? – How are you?

Mzuri sana – Very fine

Wageni mwakaribishwa – Visitors are welcome

Kenya yetu – In Our (country) Kenya

Hakuna matata – (there are) no worries

Verse

Kenya nchi nzuri – Kenya is a nice country

Nchi ya maajabu – A beautiful country

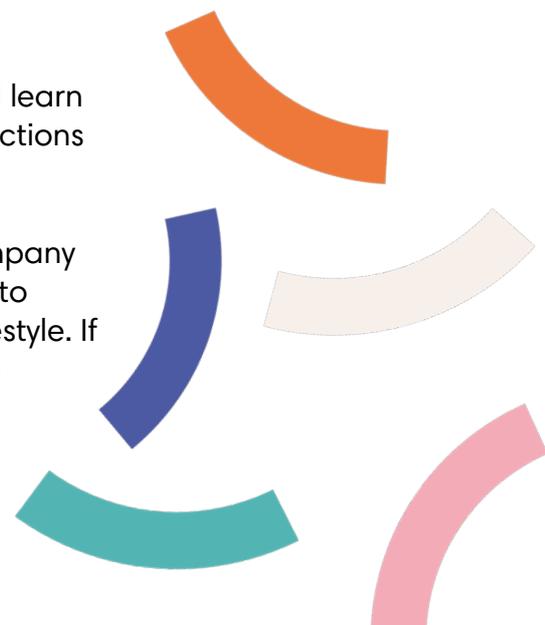
Nchi yenye amani – A peaceful country

Kenya yetu – Our country

Kenya wote – All Kenyans

There are lots of different ways you could use this song - you could learn the words, sing along with the videos, you could create your own actions or even a dance routine!

The first YouTube link included above shows a drum part to accompany the song - this might be too advanced for your child, but feel free to make your own simple rhythm to play along to, or you can just freestyle. If you are feeling brave, you could use a saucepan for a drum and a



wooden spoon as your drumstick. Uprturned plastic buckets make for quieter drums (especially with a towel laid over the top) – just in case you need a less noisy option! In the same version, there are lots of other percussion parts like tapping sounds, or scraping sounds that get added throughout the song – you could try and find some household objects that you could use to make these types of sounds and add them to the song!



Bananas Bananas

A fun, easy action rhyme to start off with! With older children, do this one standing up to do the actions, but it can be modified to do with younger children sitting on your lap too!

For the 'click click click', children sometimes panic that they can't click their fingers. Reassure them that this is totally fine and they can do a pretend 'click' action!

If you are feeling adventurous, you could try adding in another verse – all you need is two actions that rhyme with each other!

Bananas bananas, flap flap flap

(flap hands at sides of body)

Bananas bananas, clap clap clap

(clap hands)

Bananas bananas, flick flick flick

(make flicking action with hands)

Bananas bananas, click click click

(click fingers)

Bananas bananas, bump bump bump

(wiggle hips to side on each 'bump')

Bananas bananas, jump jump jump

(jump)



Janet's Fruity Songs

These catchy fruit songs will be stuck in your head all day! These were originally developed for our work with adults, but are still really accessible for children!

This song features mango, banana and kiwi, but feel free to experiment adding your own fruit names in – perhaps you could try adding in all the fruits featured in the book.

We'd also recommend checking out Part 2, for Janet's ideas on how to add a household object 'rhythm section' to the song!

Janet's Fruity Songs:

<https://wearedarts.org.uk/janets-fruity-songs/>



Chop Chop Choppity Chop

This is a lovely game that can be adapted easily: sometimes we use it to pretend to make a fruit salad and sometimes we get groups to name lots of vegetables to 'chop up' and pretend to make a pan of soup.

Chop chop, choppity chop
Chop off the bottom and chop off the top
What there is left, we will put in the pot
Chop, chop, choppity chop

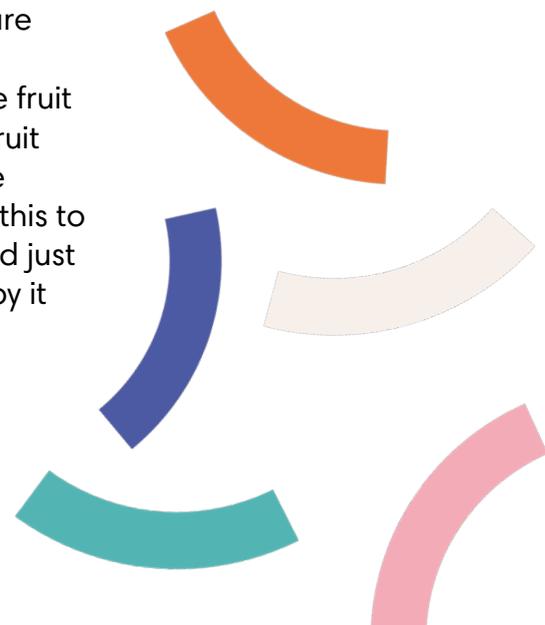
With your young person, choose a fruit that you might add to a fruit salad (or one of the fruits featured in the story). Pretend to put the fruit on your 'chopping board' (your hand held flat) and use your other hand as a 'knife' to chop the fruit up. Start off by just keeping a steady beat with your 'knife' like this (tap on the start of each word I have underline):

Chop chop, choppity chop
Chop off the bottom and chop off the top
What there is left, we will put in the pot
Chop, chop, choppity chop

If you have older children, you can try making your knife go with the words, so you tap your 'knife' on each of the syllables.

For added dramatic effect:

- Change the size of your knife based on which fruit you're chopping, so for strawberries use a small knife (one finger), for an apple use your whole hand as a knife and for large fruit like watermelon, you could get kids to stick both hands together (palm to palm), to make a huge knife!
- Pretend to use a huge wooden spoon to stir the contents with massive exaggerated motions every time a couple of fruits are added, whilst singing 'stir it round, stir it round'. Both parts are optional!
- After you have added all the fruits you want to include in the fruit salad, pretend to get a tablespoon and taste some of the fruit salad. Then sing 'who can taste the orange' and encourage groups to sing back 'I can taste the orange' – you can sing this to whatever tune you want (the simpler the better), or you could just say it to a steady beat and encourage older children to copy it back.



Animal Song

You can't find always find a song to match your topic or theme, but the great thing about early years' music is that you can make up your own! Keep the tune as simple as possible, add lots of repetition, or steal the tune from a song you already know! Here's one we made up for you – it is sung to the tune of 'If You're Happy and You Know It' and has one verse about each of the animals that feature in the story. Feel free to miss some verses, or make up your own versions!

With older children, this can be done standing, so you can add the actions, but with younger children, you can still do the actions with them sat on your knee i.e. 'run on the spot' – you could pretend to run on the spot, moving the child's arms back and forward and bumping them up and down gently on your knee, 'flap your wings' – flap the child's arms up and down.

If you want to be a monkey, jump up and down
If you want to be a monkey, jump up and down
If you want to be a monkey, want to be a monkey
If you want to be a monkey, jump up and down

If you want to be an ostrich, peck your beak

If you want to be a zebra, count your stripes

If you want to be an elephant, swing your trunk

If you want to be a giraffe, stretch up tall

If you want to be an antelope, run on the spot

If you want to be a parrot, flap your wings

If you want to be a goat, stamp your hooves



I Have One Friend

Friendship is an important theme in Handa's Surprise. This simple finger rhyme is really adaptable – you can count up from 1 to 10 (or 5 if you want a shorter version), or count down from 10 (or 5) for older children. You can do it with lots of energy, funny voices and at different speeds for day time, or use it as a calming rhyme for naptime – there's something about the repetition that makes this quite soothing when spoken in a calm, soft voice. You can even use props like teddies or puppets for each of the 'friends' if you want – have fun and make it your own!

Say the words with a steady beat.

I have one friend, one friend, one friend (*hold up one finger*)

I have one friend and now I have two (*hold up two fingers*)

I have two friends, two friends, two friends (*hold up 2 fingers*)

I have two friends and now I have three (*hold up 3 fingers*)

I have three friends.... And so on!

If you have older children, try leaving a pause on 'And now I have _____', to see if they can tell you the next number.



Websites, links and resources

All of these links and websites were checked at the time of writing, but we advise that you please check them yourself to ensure that they are still child-friendly.

Animated version of the story:

https://youtu.be/XyIV_xYi0as

Teaching ideas based on the book:

<https://www.teachingideas.co.uk/library/books/handas-surprise>

Jambo Bwana – a YouTube clip that shows the lyrics and the translation (there are more advanced musical activity ideas included in this video too):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WogvJEfCKpM>

Jambo Bwana – a version that sings the words in Swahili and also English:

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Jambo Bwana – another version with lots of photos of Kenya and its wildlife:

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Janet's fruity songs:

<https://wearedarts.org.uk/janets-fruity-songs/>

Reading Agency resources:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/3375/>

Early Learning HQ resources:

<https://www.earlylearninghq.org.uk/stories/handas-surprise/>

STEM extension activities:

<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/community/collection/364921/handas-surprise-needs-living-things-diet-animals>

Young People's Trust for the Environment (good for animal facts and photos):

<http://ypte.org.uk/>

Africam – animal cams from Africa:

<https://www.africam.com/wildlife/>

