MUSIC IDEAS FOR ANGLICAN PLAYGROUPS

Praise him with the strings and flute
Praise him with the clash of cymbals
Psalm 150 - NIV
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**Acknowledgement:** Some of these ideas come from a music forum with Kaye Plowman (CPN)

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**Musical Instruments to make**

**Drum**

You will need:
- One hole punch
- Inner tube (rubber)

Cut two pieces of inner tube and stretch over the coffee can, top and bottom, cut to fit allowing a hangover. Using hole punch, punch holes around the edge of the tubing (not too close to the edge though). Re-stretch tubing over coffee can and use thonging to attach top and bottom rubber over the coffee can.

**Shakers/Castinets**

You will need:
- Bottles of different shapes with lids that can be secured.
- Split peas, barley, rice to half fill the bottles.
- Secure the lids so nothing can escape and be inhaled and there you have your shakers.

**Rhythm Sticks**

Strong small wooden spoons that can be struck together or pieces of dowel. Make sure they have been sanded smooth.

**Wrist Shakers**

You will need large bells, lengths of wide elastic.

Sew the bells securely to the elastic and make the elastic into a circle to fit on the wrist of a child. These can be shaken to the music.
**Suggested CD's to use in Playgroup**

Many of these titles are available from the ABC Shop, Word or Koorong.

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<td>There’s a Bear in There CD – ABC Playschool</td>
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<td>Don Stott’s CD for Playgroup</td>
<td>Don Stott’s Tiny Tunes - traditional nursery rhymes with ‘What’s my name?’ and ‘Big Fish’ written by Don. Cost $10 Ph 9894 1781 email: <a href="mailto:idon@post.com">idon@post.com</a></td>
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<td>Mission Songs for Kids; Find Out; When Jesus was born - Beth Barnett &amp; Judith Waldron. Ph. 9817 4513. Includes songs for special occasions such as Easter, Christmas</td>
<td>Action Songs for Toddlers</td>
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<td>Playschool Favourites CD</td>
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<td>25 Songs Toddlers love to sing - Koorong</td>
<td>David C Cook Publishing Co. 1991</td>
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<td>Eency Weency Start - Joanne Haynes - songs and activity suggestions for running your own song time. Book comes with CD and props Ph. 0403 783 188</td>
<td>Playgroup Plus CD’s from GFS - Playgroup</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:jhaynes44@iprimus.com.au">jhaynes44@iprimus.com.au</a></td>
<td>Proms CD &amp; book; Ready Mr Music - What’s in the box; Ph. (02) 9265 1538, fax. (02) 9267 8720, email: <a href="mailto:gfssyd@austarmetro.com.au">gfssyd@austarmetro.com.au</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://shop.abc.net.au/">http://shop.abc.net.au/</a></td>
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**MUSIC FOR PLAYGROUPS:**

We need to remember to keep music play based as this is what playgroup is all about.

At playgroup music is important because it can:

- Influence feelings and moods
- Encourage musical talents
- Foster children’s’ natural love of music
- Help children be aware of the rhythms that surround them
- Assist children’s language development
- Free children to release their feelings and give freedom of expression
- Improve memory
- Is linked to maths
- Improve rhythm & co-ordination
- Aid listening skills
- Help children learn to be part of a group and be a team player
- Support cultural experiences
- Boost self esteem, self image and sense of accomplishment
- Be a teaching tool for many life skills ie cooperation, sharing, having fun together
- Teach basic musical concepts - beat (regular), rhythm (varies fast or slow), pitch (high and low)
- Give children a confidence to create their own songs and tunes
- Bond child with adult as they enjoy music together

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SINGING GRACE:

1. Thank you for the food we eat, yum yum
   Thank you for the friends we meet, such fun
   Thank you for the birds that sing, a-ling a-ling
   Thank you God for every thing, Amen

2. Thank you God for giving us food, (x3)
   At playgroup today

3. Thank you God for things to do,
   And for friends to play with too,
   Thank you God that we've had fun,
   Thank you for this food, yum yum

4. We thank you God for daily bread,
   For milk to drink and apples red,
   For meat and eggs that make us strong,
   We thank you God, the whole day long

Rev'd Christine Barren is the Children’s Ministry Leader for the Area Deanery of Mornington and is working at 5 centres on the Mornington Peninsula. She is a music teacher who runs Music and Playgroup sessions.

She says:

I would recommend perhaps to include a list of good CD’s that your playgroup might buy to use for instrumental sessions. The children know and love these modern songs - most are "pre-school groupies" of one group or another!

Generally I have found that "Playschool" CD’s and most especially the Bananas In Pyjamas, Bear in a Big Blue House (not Australian which is a bit limiting but the music is wonderfully varied and great rhythmically) and Mister Whiskers CD’s work best. Groups like Wiggles and High Five have such a strong visual component that the songs often make little or no sense without the video! Musically they are often short on ideas too which mean that the children cannot play instruments easily to them.

Copyright will prevent the words being printed out unless you apply to APRA but I have clarified with them that playing the CD’s in a group situation is O.K. for a playgroup. (You are not allowed to use CD’s in such situations as ballet classes without a licence! ) I don’t find the words are essential when the children and their mums are playing instruments. I also use the same songs regularly and if they don’t know them they soon pick the words up.
J.E.S.U.S
J.E.S.U.S, Jesus is my friend
J.E.S.U.S, Jesus is my friend
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is my friend
J.E.S.U.S, love will never end
J.E.S.U.S, love will never end
Jesus, Jesus, love will never end

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I’m a child of God (tune: I’m a little teapot)
I’m a child of God and you are too,
God loves me and God loves you.
Celebrate the happy news today,
God’s love for us is here to stay.

It’s fun to come to Playgroup (tune: Oh the more we are together)
Oh, it’s fun to come to Playgroup, to Playgroup, to Playgroup,
Oh, it’s fun to come to Playgroup, we’re God’s family.
There’s (child’s name) and ……..and…………..and…………
Oh, it’s fun to come to Playgroup, we’re God’s family.

MUSIC TROLLEY
Cover with a cloth to stop children diving into it

Bag of felt farm animals (available from MTA)
Can be used to:
• Sing Old McDonald had a farm
• Memory Game: when all animals are up on the board have the children close their eyes and remove one of the animals – the other children guess which one is missing
• Can be used to introduce Creation

SONG CARDS
Picture on the front of the card out of a nursery rhyme book, words on the back. These cards are used at song time and laminated (A3 is the best size). They can be put on the mat for the children to choose which one they want to sing.

FOR DANCING
Scarves or ribbons to be waved high or low to different moods of music.
PROPS FOR SONGS & POEMS

Have a box with toys in it and the Children look in the box and choose a toy and that is the song you sing.

- Boat row, row, row your boat
- Frog Mr frog jumped out of his pond one day
- Teddy teddy bear teddy bear turn around
- Doll Miss Polly had a dolly
- Fish Swish, swish, swish
- Ball A little ball, a bigger ball
- Monkey Five little monkeys
- Elephant Hey de, Hey de ho
- Spider Eency weency spider
- Duck Five little ducks
- Teapot I’m a little teapot
- Rabbit Little Peter rabbit
- Mouse three blind mice
- Pig This little pig went to market
- Cat warm kitty, soft kitty
- Bee here is a beehive
- Sheep baa baa black sheep
- Shell Little shell
- Bus The wheels on the bus
- Cow When the cows were sleeping
- Bird two little dickie birds
- Train train is a coming
- Car take you riding in my car
- Horse ride a cock horse
- Balloon happy birthday
- Crown I am the king
- Dog Oh where, oh where has my little dog gone

Three Cheeky Monkeys  (just to rhythm)
Three Cheeky monkeys, sitting in a tree,
Teasing Mr Crocodile
“You can’t catch me”
Along comes Mr Crocodile, quiet as can be and
SNAP says Mr Crocodile, Monkey for tea.
Two Cheeky monkeys…………
One Cheeky monkey………
No cheeky monkeys sitting in a tree,
Mr Crocodile is as Happy as can be.

In my Bible (tune: Are you sleeping/Frere Jacques)
In my Bible, in my Bible,  (open/close hands like a book)
God tells me, God tells me  (point to self)
Jesus is my good friend, Jesus is my good friend  (nod head)
He loves me, he loves me  (hug self)

Cuddly Koalas (tune: I hear thunder)
(Child chooses a toy)
Cuddly Koalas, cuddly Koalas (cuddle toy in lap)
Possums too, Possums too  (make “eyes” with looped fingers)
Wallabies and Wombats, Wallabies and Wombats (tickle toy’s tummy)
Kangaroos, Kangaroos.  (jump toy up and down)

Fences (just to rhythm)

Sitting in a circle
Straight fences (straight lines with fingers in the air)
Curvy fences  (curvy lines in the air)
Barbed fences (dots on back of hand)
Electric fences (tickle inside hand)
Songs for Playgroup mat time

Incy Wincy Spider
Do you put your sock on?
Twinkle, Twinkle
Build it up
House with a wall
Open Shut them
Cuddly Koalas
We’re going up
Shake your Sillies out
Rainbow Promise (Frere Jacques)
Standing on one leg
If I were a butterfly
Three Cheeky monkeys
Heads & Shoulders
Down in the Valley
I’m a child of God
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, once I caught a fish alive

Jack is quiet down in his box
Here is the Sea
If you’re happy and you know it
Der Glumph went the little green frog
Row your boat
I’m a little teapot
Ten fat Sausages
Here is the bee hive
Five little ducks
Old McDonald had a farm
In my bible
Johnny works with 1 hammer
10 little chickens
Baa Baa Black Sheep
ABC Song
Oh, it’s fun to come to Playgroup

Note: Heather Saba, St John’s Bentleigh, has compiled this list of the songs that she uses at her playgroup and the following pages are some of her songs:

FAVOURITE SONGS & FINGER PLAYS

For music time to work well each parent or carer MUST join in. This ensures that the music time becomes a real bonding experience. Some small children may take several weeks before they participate. Some children learn by observing from a distance. Let each child join in as they are comfortable.

- Three Jelly fish (make jelly fish, finger puppets or choose children)
- Wriggling worms
- Where is thumbkin?
- Five green and speckled frogs
- Five fat sausages sizzling in the pan
- Heads and shoulders, knees and toes
- Hickory Dickory Dock
- Open shut them
- Row, row, row your boat
- If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands
- Humpty Dumpty
- I’m a little teapot
- Five little ducks
- Miss Polly
- Twinkle twinkle little star
- Incy wincey spider
- Little Peter rabbit
- The wheels on the bus
- Jessie (Johnny) works with one hammer
- Old MacDonald
- Wash your dirty hands
- Jack is quiet down in his box
- Everybody do this, do this do this
- Sayonara
GOODBYE SONGS

Now playgroup is over and we are going home,
Good bye, good bye
We'll see you all next week
Good bye, good bye
We'll see you all next week

COUNTING SONGS

- Counting Christmas (Robyn)
- 1,2,3,4,5, once I caught a fish alive
- One potato, two potato
- 2 little dickie birds sitting on a wall
- Baa Baa Blacksheep
- No more jumping on the bed (Wiggles)

NAME SONGS

What do you think my name is?
I wonder if you know…
My name is ---------------
Hello, hello, hello, hello, hello, hello, hello
(use a scarf and mirror)

A's got the drum,
A's got the drum,
Who's got the drum,
A's got the drum
(use a ball instead)

How can we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?

This was the theme of the recent Diocesan Ministry Conference in May 2005.
Bishop Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Manchester was the guest speaker. The title comes from Psalm 137 when the Israelites are refugees and relates to our present day – how can we be Christians in the post-Christian era?

There are 5 values for churches to develop:
1. Focus on God the Trinity
2. Incarnational – into the present culture
3. Transformational – allow the Holy Spirit to transform
4. Make Disciples – transform people
Relational rather than program based.
We must connect with the spiritual/religious Renaissance occurring around us.

He saw 3 fundamental issues:
- Prayerfulness for our church
- Repackage spirituality – people are longing for inner peace
- Prophetic care – now the biggest congregation meets 4pm Mondays. Not about structures but a burning desire to help each other fix our eyes upon Jesus.

We need to ‘create waterholes not fences’ so people can come to be nourished said Carolyn Kitto (another speaker).

So how can we sing the Lord's song in our playgroups?

We are already doing well by connecting to our culture and being relational with the bridge-building friendships we are creating.

Most have this open, welcoming, non-judgemental attitude to all who come searching for peace and happiness. We need to encourage one another in prayer, to pray for those in our group especially those with hearts that are soft towards God, ask, allow the Spirit to work, transforming people into disciples, care for their needs and be flexible.

We need to encourage our churches to be flexible and accepting and create those ‘spiritual bore and waterholes.’ We could focus once a term on something spiritual – a Pram Service including lighting a candle for a few moments of God-thinking time. A Coffee/Dessert night – bring a fun-thing and question. A Mind/Body/Soul series of talks – how do you care for yourself. Christ Church Dingley did this in playgroup time with church people caring for the kids while 10 minute talks were given over 3 weeks.
Musical Instruments

Musical instruments in playgroups can be lots of fun when the children are able to make their own music. Here are some suggestions of instruments you can either purchase or ask to be donated to your group. It is preferable to have the real thing rather than a toy as the instrument is more durable. However, for those who are creative refer to suggestions for making your own instruments on page 19. Places like Allan’s music will give you a discount for churches if you ask.

- Tambourines
- Triangles
- Bells
- Miniature cymbals
- Maracas
- Egg shakers
- Woodblocks
- Castanets
- Rhythm Sticks

RHYTHM SONGS

Wooden spoons are great for these songs
Or make your own rhythm sticks

Other instruments that children can walk around and bang are also good, such as drums.

BEAN BAGS

Bean bags are great for throwing and catching to music (they don’t roll away like balls. Children can walk to the music and balance a bean bag on their head, shoulder etc. They are also great for tossing up on a parachute.

Make foam filled bean bags with a double bag to ensure that none of the foam beads escape as they are dangerous if children inhale or ingest them. The advantage is that they wash and dry easily.

Coloured bean bags or basic shaped bean bags can help children learn their colour shapes etc. Make frog or ladybird beanbags that don’t have every single feature of the animal to allow children to use their imagination. (Based on Steiner idea)
MUSIC AT OUR PLAYGROUP
Jo White St Paul’s Canterbury

Routine is very important so we have about six minutes set out like this:
1. Dancing with the ribbons to a tape, sometimes lively, sometimes gentle. This is where I can often include Christian music like Seasons of the Spirit or Colin Buchanan.
2. Sit down and sing a few songs. I use a little keyboard on my lap so that I get the tune right. I generally use Kodaly songs that have a very limited range. Our songs often have simple actions as well. Doing the actions is one way the children can join in as not many of them can sing yet (some are just beginning to talk).
3. Playing percussion instruments. Once the instruments are given out I act as the conductor getting them to practice stopping and starting a few times. I then turn on the tape and conduct them to start after the introduction and to stop at the end. Seems simple but getting that control is important for the children and for our sanity.
4. To settle them down I bring out my little puppet, a mouse who lives in a little box and is very shy. Mouse will only come out when the children are sitting down. We sing his song and by then the children are ready for a story.

‘mainly music’
‘mainly music’ at St Andrews, Somerville
Lucy-Ann Chave enjoys running two ‘mainly music’ groups at Somerville.
“The children learn so much and they love it,” says Lucy.
The program was started in New Zealand by Jo Hood and has gone international.
It is Christian based, encouraging use of Christian songs, talking about Jesus/God and friendship support. It is a subtle outreach. Many community families have joined the Somerville group, some have asked for baptism in their church.
When you join you get a Starter Kit with CD’s, various manuals and a training DVD. Training sessions are also available annually.
Lucy-Ann starts with half an hour of music: a variety of action songs, using props, nursery rhymes, singing and dancing, with overheads so parents can sing too. If the parents do the actions the kids follow on. Then the children have morning tea and go on to general play. She repeats this with the second group.
Ladies from the church help with morning tea and there is a fundraising committee.

For more information:
http://www.mainlymusic.org.au/