

Wow! Said the Owl

**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 by and used with kind permission of The Makaton Charity. For more information about Makaton, please visit www.makaton.org

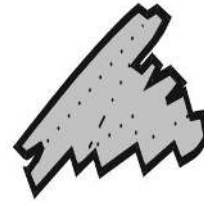
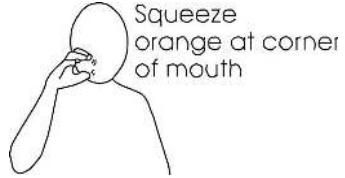




Red



Orange



Grey



Owl Ears

A really simple activity that you can do with your child absolutely anywhere.

Take a few minutes to sit still and listen. Just listen. Listen to the noises that you can hear around you – it might be loud noises like a dog barking next door, or tiny background noises that you've never noticed before like the washing machine spinning around. Try this out in different locations and see how many different sounds you can find together!

What can you hear? Try writing down, drawing or recording the sounds you can hear:

Date:

Location:

Sounds we can hear:



Like an Owl

A lovely, yet simple action song sung to the tune of London Bridge. Come up with your own actions for each verse and do them in time to the music.

Open your wings and fly around
Fly around, fly around
Open your wings and fly around
Just like an owl

Open your eyes big and wide
Big and wide, big and wide
Open your eyes big and wide
Just like an owl

Land on the ground and hop along
Hop along, hop along
Land on the ground and hop along
Just like an owl

Turn your head and say hoo hoo
Say hoo hoo, say hoo hoo
Turn your head and say hoo hoo
Just like an owl



Colour game

Colours are an important theme in Wow! Said the Owl. Here's a fun, silly game, sung to the tune of If You're Happy and You Know It, to help practise colour identification.

If your clothes have any red, any red
If your clothes have any red, any red
If your clothes have any red, put your finger on your head
If your clothes have any red, any red

Blue – finger on your shoe
Yellow – smile like a happy fellow
Brown – turn your smile into a frown
Black – put your hands behind your back
White – stomp your feet with all your might



I Can Sing a Rainbow

A classic song, all about colours. If you are wanting a new challenge, check out this clip of Mr Tumble signing the song and try to sign along!

Here is Mr Tumble's version of the first verse:

<https://youtu.be/yLpEGM34Fic>

For the whole song, we like this version from BBC:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-i-can-sing-a-rainbow/zn3tqp3>

Red and yellow and pink and green
Purple and orange and blue,
I can sing a rainbow,
Sing a rainbow,
Sing a rainbow too.
Listen with your ears,
Listen with your eyes,
And sing everything you see!
I can sing a rainbow,
Sing a rainbow,
Sing along with me...
Red and yellow and pink and green
Purple and orange and blue,
I can sing a rainbow,
Sing a rainbow,
Sing a rainbow too.



Twinkle Twinkle

No introduction needed, but a few extra verses that you may not have sung before.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are,
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle little star,
How I wonder what you are.

When the blazing sun is gone,
When he nothing shines upon,
Then you show your little light,
Twinkle, twinkle, all the night.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.

Then the traveller in the dark,
Thanks you for your tiny spark,
He could not see which way to go,
If you did not twinkle so.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.

In the dark blue sky you keep,
And often through my curtains peep,
For you never shut your eye,
Till the sun is in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!

As your bright and tiny spark,
Lights the traveller in the dark,
Though I know not what you are,
Twinkle, twinkle, little star.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.



Websites, resources and links

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

Resources and ideas for slightly older children:

<https://www.teachingideas.co.uk/library/books/wow-said-the-owl>

Sing a Rainbow (Mr Tumble version)

<https://youtu.be/yLpEGM34Fic>

Sing a Rainbow (BBC version with extra verse)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-i-can-sing-a-rainbow/zn3tqp3>

Some great ideas for nature activities from the Woodland Trust

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/03/kids-nature-activities-self-isolation/>

Some more nature activities:

<http://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/categorymenu/?cat=activities>

Andy's Secret Hide-Out – Owl episode

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/playlist-andys-secret-hideout-series-2#playlist>

