

# GROW YOUR OWN POTATOES



## Resource 3: Songs

Songs are a fantastic aide-mémoire; we all remember songs we sang at school as children. Singing can help students familiarise themselves with new vocabulary and remember key facts. Singing increases enjoyment and has a calming and bonding effect. Through singing you can bring your students together in a state where they are calm, happy, and ready to learn.

Songs can also be used to cue students in to learning. Beginning all your lessons on potatoes with a particular cue can help students link learning together. The cue could simply be showing a symbol on the time table, but a multisensory cue such as an object of reference or a song, will have greater impact. The cue lets your students know that this lesson has something to do with the other lessons they've had on the subject and gives them the opportunity to build upon prior learning.

The songs we have provided are based on familiar tunes. If you're feeling adventurous you might like to take inspiration from what we've done and adapt a song popular with your students into a learning resource. You know your students best, and know their taste in music, you can create something that will excite them and get them interested in learning.

**Two song suggestions are on the following pages**



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## Grow

[Sung to the tune of 'In an English Country Garden' based on the Jimmy Rogers version. With a little tweaking, for example by inserting 'tasty' prior to pies, or singing 'you will' instead of 'you'll', it can be made to fit other versions.]

*How do all these potatoes grow*

*On the classroom floor in class 2? (Adapt this line to suit your setting)*

*I'll tell you now of what I know*

*If you'll listen then you'll learn how.*

*They need soil for their food*

*Light from the sun and fresh air too*

*Just the right amount of water*

*That's how our potatoes grow so well*

*On the classroom floor in class 2. (Adapt this line to suit your setting)*

*What do I myself need to grow*

*At school and when I'm at home?*

*I'll tell you now of what I know*

*If you'll listen then you'll learn how*

*I need lots of healthy food*

*Light from the sun and fresh air too*

*Clean water and other drinks*

*All these things and lots of love help me grow*

*At school and when I'm at home*

*How can potatoes, help me grow*

*At school and when I'm at home?*

*I'll tell you now of what I know*

*If you'll listen then you'll learn how.*

*Potatoes are a healthy food*

*I can eat them (in) many ways*

*Baked in pies or by themselves*

*Mashed, boiled, even fried, they help me grow*

*At school and when I'm at home*

This song reinforces the knowledge we hope your students will gain through their potato lessons. It contains lines that repeat from one verse to another to make it easy for your students to sing. Do not worry if your students aren't able to join in with part, or all, of the song. Encourage noise making or give students percussion instruments to allow them to be involved in the singing; lead the singing yourself with other staff members. It's not intended to be a choral performance, so don't be shy, sing out loud and have fun.



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## Healthy Eating

This song is based on the refrain of Frère Jacques. We have provided a few verses to start you off; you can compose your own with your students.

### Composing verses is a good plenary activity

Ask students what they have learned in the lesson. Allow them to identify learning that is important to them. Adapt their sentences to fit into a verse and then sing the whole song through adding their verse. If you add a verse each time you do some potato work you'll have a song that helps students remember their learning and that they can feel proud of for writing.

The great thing about Frère Jacques is that it's a repeating song, so you can sing a line, and then your students can sing it back to you. Turn taking is an important literacy skill, key to speaking and listening. Practicing oral turn taking through song will help your students develop this fundamental skill.

The simplicity of the song also makes it easy to sign clearly whilst singing. Look at the signs in our resources section to help you highlight key words as you sing.

With older students this kind of simple repetition can be spoken against a backing beat to create a rap, encouraging students to change the tone of their voice as they rap the words can help them develop awareness of their speaking: shout some lines, whisper others, say them with a happy voice, or angry voice. [This is particular useful for students with autism who may struggle to regulate the volume of their voice and may be unaware of how to put emotional tone into their speech.]

*Healthy eating*

*Healthy eating*

*Is good for you*

*Is good for you*

*Potatoes give me energy*

*Potatoes give me energy*

*I wash and cook them first*

*I wash and cook them first*

*Healthy eating*

*Healthy eating*

*Is good for you*

*Is good for you*

*Nuts contain protein*

*Nuts contain protein*

*To make me strong*

*To make me strong*

*Healthy eating*

*Healthy eating*

*Is good for you*

*Is good for you*

*Drink lots of water*

*Drink lots of water*

*To keep hydrated*

*To keep hydrated*

**Now you get the idea, don't be shy, have a try!**

