

Primary children love singing songs both in class and in assembly and what better way to celebrate EDL than by teaching the children a song from another culture in another language.

The children will quickly learn the tune and the lyrics, especially if they can combine them with actions. You can also speak with the children about where the songs are from, research the country, listen to and discuss how the words are spoken, look at similarities (and differences!) to English.

If you have a native speaker in the school or in the wider community they can be invited to speak about the songs and to help the children with pronunciation.

When the children are ready, the song can then be performed on the day to families and the wider community.

Here's an example in French:



La belle au bois dormant

This popular song is sung to the well-known tune 'There was a princess long ago' which will be known to many of the class. For those who don't, it is an easy tune that is quick to learn.

This is one approach:

- Share with the children that they will be learning a song from France about Sleeping Beauty.
- Discuss the legend, research the château d'Ussé where the legend is said to have originated
- Teach the children the song, either by getting them to learn in verse by verse copying you, or with other children giving them the text
- Talk about actions for each verse, for example, verse 1, the children pretend to comb their hair. Verse two; they wag their fingers as a warning. Verse three they make a wicked expression. Verse four they pretend to cast a spell; verse five, all children simulate the hedge growing up with their arms and hands. For the next verse, when the prince comes they could pretend to ride in to t rescue! Then the prince gently taps the princess on the shoulder and she awakes, and finally for the last verse all link arms and sway gently
- The children will love this activity and they can dress up for the main parts, other children taking on the role of the hedge, maybe dressed in green with paper leaves.

La belle, la belle, au bois dormant, bois dormant, bois dormant

La belle, la belle, au bois dormant, bois dormant.

La belle, la belle, prends garde à toi, garde à toi, garde à toi garde à toi,

La belle, la belle, prends garde à toi, garde à toi.

La méchante méchante fée arrive, fée arrive, fée arrive

La méchante méchante fée arrive, fée arrive.

Elle jette son sort "tu dors cent ans!" "tu dors cent ans!" "tu dors cent ans!"

Elle jette son sort "tu dors cent ans!" "tu dors cent ans!"

**La haie d'épines grandit grandit, grandit grandit,
grandit grandit,
La haie d'épines grandit grandit, grandit.**

**Le prince arrive il voit la belle, voit la belle, voit la belle
Le prince arrive il voit la belle, voit la belle.**

“Ma belle ma belle ouvre les yeux, ouvre les yeux, ouvre les yeux, ma belle ma belle ouvre les yeux, ouvre les yeux!”

**La belle épouse son prince charmant, prince charmant, prince charmant,
La belle épouse son prince charmant, prince charmant.**

And here's one in German:



Mein Hut

A very popular and easy fun German song is *mein Hut* sung to the tune of the three cornered hat.

**Mein Hut, er hat drei Ecken, drei Ecken hat mein Hut;
Und hätt' er nicht drei Ecken,
Dann wär' er nicht mein Hut!**

The song is sung three times:

- firstly just as it is
- then with actions; for *mein* children point to themselves. for *Hut* they point to an imaginary hat, for *drei* they show three fingers and for *Ecken* they form their fingers into the shape of a triangle
- finally, they sing the song a last time, but when they do an action they just hum
- Children can also wear funny hats for the song whilst performing!