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Opening extract from

The Gruffalo's Child and Other Songs

Written by

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Introduction

by Julia Donaldson

Welcome to my third collection of songs for children. As in the first two books, *The Gruffalo Song and Other Songs* and *Room on the Broom and Other Songs*, the songs fall into two categories: story songs and action songs. So I hope they will appeal to primary schools, as well as children and parents at home, and that everyone will join in with the singing, actions and noises.

The story songs include "The Gruffalo's Child" and "Stick Man Song", which I wrote to go with those two books. "The World Inside a Book" was written to go with *Charlie Cook's Favourite Book*, though the idea is that the words can be adapted by children to fit their own favourite books. "The Mouse and the Lion" is a song version of the well-known Aesop's fable, and "Kitten on the Farm" is based on a French story.

Of the action songs, "I've Got a Ball of Pastry" is one I wrote when my second son was at nursery school. I used to go in and sing it with the children, who liked joining in and pretending to roll pastry, peel bananas and toss pancakes. "Nut Tree" is a more recent composition, which I often sing on stage, inviting audience members to curl up and then grow into trees (though there is usually one who fails to germinate!) "Breathing Song" provides an opportunity to gasp, pant, sniff, blow, and finally snore "so loud it wakes them up next door". "Swing and Spin" is an adaptation of the words of one of my "Songbirds" phonic reading books, but children too young to read can enjoy spinning, splashing and squelching. (This, by the way, is the Gruffalo's favourite song!)

As with the other two books, the songs have a simple piano accompaniment and guitar chords, but if no instrumentalist is on hand, the CD has instrument-only (karaoke) versions of all the songs as well as sung versions.

Once again, the marvellous arranger, Andrew Dodge, collected some great musicians to record the CD, on which I am also joined in song by my guitar-playing husband, Malcolm, and by Imogen Moore and her daughters, Lola and Amelie, plus the oboist's daughter, Rhiannon Morgan, who came to the studio with her mum and obligingly joined in the chorus of "Stick Man Song".

And, as usual, Axel Scheffler provided the icing on the cake with his lovely, humorous and colourful pictures, which I hope will inspire you all to sing and dance.



A note to accompanists, by the musical arranger, Andrew Dodge:

As the tunes and their accompaniments are scored across two staves, there is often only a single line in the right-hand part (the treble clef) so that the sung melody is as clear as possible. Consequently, there are often notes written in the left-hand part (the bass clef) that are more easily played with the right hand. Please play the bass clef notes with whichever hand is easier.





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The Gruffalo's Child

With a Gruffalo lilt





The lines in italics are sung by the Gruffalo's Child; the other lines are as follows:

Verse 1: Narrator
Verse 2: Snake
Verse 3: Owl
Verse 4: Fox
Verse 5: Narrator

Verse 1
Where are you going to, Gruffalo's Child,
All by yourself through the woods so wild?
Aha! Oho!
To look for the Big Bad Mouse.

Verse 2
Where can he be? I'll ask the Snake.
He's down by the lake, eating Gruffalo cake.
Aha! Oho!
Beware of the Big Bad Mouse.



Verse 3
Where can he be? Will Owl tell me?
He's under a tree, drinking Gruffalo tea.
Too-whit! Too-whoo!
Beware of the Big Bad Mouse.

Verse 4
Where can he be? The Fox looks sly:
He's somewhere nearby, eating Gruffalo pie.
Aha! Oho!
Beware of the Big Bad Mouse.

Verse 5
Who is this creature so big and strong?
His tail and his whiskers are terribly long.
Oh help! Oh no!
It must be the Big Bad Mouse!

Verse 6
Where are you going to, Gruffalo's Child,
All by yourself through the woods so wild?
Away! Back home!
To hide from the Big Bad Mouse.



I've Got a Ball of Pastry













Verse 1
I've got a ball of pastry.
What shall I do with that?

You've got to roll it, roll it, roll it,
Until you've rolled that pastry flat.
(Repeat)



Verse 2
I've got a ripe banana.
Tell me where I begin.

You've got to peel it, peel it, peel it,
Until you've peeled off all the skin.
(Repeat)



Verse 3
I've got a pot of porridge,
Creamy and thick and hot.

You've got to stir it, stir it, stir it,
Until it's bubbling in the pot.
(Repeat)



Verse 4
I've got a jar of strawberry jam,
Sticky and sweet and red.

You've got to spread it, spread it, spread it,
Until it's on a slice of bread.
(Repeat)



Verse 5
I've got a flat, round pancake.
One side has just been fried.

You've got to toss it, toss it, toss it,
Until it lands the other side.
(Repeat)



Verse 6
I've got a plate of dinner.
What do you think that's for?

You've got to eat it, eat it, eat it,
And if it's nice you'll ask for more.
You've got to eat it, eat it, eat it,
And if it's nice you'll ask for more. MORE!