



Brain Beats Music



Haere Mai

This lively song is perfect for starting a music session with children. It brings the group together with movements that challenge and delight, while building children's brains.

Learning Opportunities:

- Engaging with music.
- Familiarity with te reo Māori
- Encouraging participation with music
- Movement in space (proprioception) (circling, bending, reaching)
- Vestibular development (turning, spinning and upside-down)
- Body awareness
- A variety of group and individual movements
- Repeating patterns (algebra)
- Following instructions

Teaching Notes:

- Before playing the song, ensure the children understand the meaning of 'haere mai', a te reo Māori greeting meaning 'come here/welcome'.
- Movements: For the first section of the song, have the children hold hands on a large circle. Move sideways in the circle for the first half of the section, then move in the other direction for the second half of the section. In the second section, move as the lyrics suggest. Encourage the children to turn slowly when the lyrics say, 'turn in a circle, fingers in the sky', and to spin fast when the lyrics say, 'spin, spin around'. Interestingly, turning slowly is more difficult for children than spinning is.
- Ensure the children understand the movements that the lyrics suggest. Make sure the children have enough room to turn and spin without bumping into each other.
- Now play the song and enjoy moving together as the song directs.

Lyrics:

Haere mai! Let's have some fun,
Our Brain Beats Music time has begun.
Let's all move our bodies today,
'Cause the music and the beats will show the way.
The music and the beats will show the way.

Bend our knees and reach up high.
Turn in a circle, fingers in the sky.
Bend our knees and touch the ground.
Hold onto your ears and spin, spin around.



