



Brain Beats Music

Dinosaur Picnic



This amusing song is a must-listen for all dinosaur fanatics. It follows a group of dinosaurs who each bring their favourite food to a picnic. But what will the Tyrannosaurus Rex bring ?

Learning Opportunities:

- Engaging with music
- Encouraging participation with music
- Eye fitness
- Focus and concentration
- Mathematics - counting and repeating patterns (number and algebra)

Teaching Notes:

- Talk with the children about what they already know about dinosaurs. Introduce books, pictures, figurines or models of dinosaurs. Our homemade felt dinosaurs are a popular choice. OR
- Introduce the book or images that accompany this song. Point out the features of books (spine, front cover, back cover, title, author). Encourage the children to speculate what the song might be about.

Play the song and either:

- Use the physical resources to 'tell' the story by using the book/ pictures, or moving the figurines/ models about, AND/OR
- Encourage the children to demonstrate the features of each dinosaur with their bodies. Triceratops (hold three fingers in front of your face to represent three horns), Stegosaurus (use hands to represent spine on your back), Brontosaurus (extend your flexed hand upwards to represent a long neck), Tuatara (make a circle with your fingers to represent a third eye), Tyrannosaurus Rex (gnash your teeth and make fierce faces).

Lyrics:

It's a dinosaur picnic. What's for lunch?

Here comes the Triceratops. With his three sharp horns.
He's feasting on ferns. At the dinosaur picnic.
He's waiting for his friends, at the dinosaur picnic.

Here comes the Stegosaurus. With spines on her back.
She's munching on moss. At the dinosaur picnic.
She's with the Triceratops who is feasting on ferns.
At the dinosaur picnic.

Here comes the Brontosaurus. With his very long neck.
He's licking some leaves. At the dinosaur picnic.
He's with the Stegosaurus who is munching on moss.
Next to the Triceratops who is feasting on ferns.
At the dinosaur picnic.

Here comes the Tuatara, with her special third eye.
She's gobbling up grubs. At the dinosaur picnic.
She's with the Brontosaurus who is licking some leaves.
Next to the Stegosaurus who is munching on moss.
Next to the Triceratops who is feasting on ferns.
At the dinosaur picnic.

Here comes the Tyrannosaurus Rex. With his powerful jaws.
He's brought some meat. To the dinosaur picnic.
He's with the Tuatara who is gobbling up grubs.
Next to the Brontosaurus who is licking some leaves.
Next to the Stegosaurus who is munching on moss.
At the dinosaur...

Wait, wait, wait! Was someone missing?
Mmm! That Triceratops was tasty!
At the dinosaur picnic!





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Planning for Further Learning:

Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The te reo Māori word for dinosaur is mokonui. Try using 'mokonui' in your discussions.• Read fiction and non-fiction books about dinosaurs together.• How might dinosaurs have communicated with each other? Did they use sounds or their body. How do humans communicate without words? Discuss body language and sign language.
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draw children's attention to there being one dinosaur, then two, then three, etc. This will help them develop the understanding that the last number said in the 'poem' of numbers is the word that denotes the total.• Discuss the sizes of dinosaurs with respect to objects that the children are familiar with, for example, Triceratops = two elephants, Stegosaurus = one elephant, Bron-tosaurus = five elephants, Tuatara = arm-length, Tyrannosaurus-Rex = one elephant.
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss the diet that each of the dinosaurs prefer. Introduce terms like herbivore, frugivore (fruit-eater), granivore (seed eater), nectivore (nectar feeder), folivore (leaf eaters) carnivore, insectivore (insect eater), vermivore (soft-bodied invertebrate eater), piscivore (fish eater) and omnivore.• Talk about the animals that co-existed with dinosaurs that are still alive today. For example, Tuatara, chickens, bees, snakes, crocodiles, turtles, ostriches, etc.
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore the tools (spoons, knives, picks, brushes, etc) used by archaeologists. Become an archaeologist in the sandpit or at the beach.
Social Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Tuatara is a rare lizard that is endemic to New Zealand and is still alive today. Its conservation status is 'at risk'. The song mentions their "special third eye" (parietal eye) which is not used for vision but likely plays a role in regulating circadian rhythms and detecting light changes. Research the Tuatara, including its cultural significance to Māori, and other endemic animals from New Zealand.• Explain the concept of the Mesozoic Era, or Age of the Dinosaurs. This is divided into three time periods - Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous. Learn about dinosaurs from each different period.
Health and PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore moving like a dinosaur. The introduction to this song provides a good accompaniment for plodding or stomping.• Learn about different types of food and how they nourish our bodies.
The Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a dramatisation of being a dinosaur. How might dinosaurs have moved? How might they have communicated with each other? What would it feel like to be a small herbaceous dinosaur surrounded by big carnivorous dinosaurs? What would you do?

