



In Mexico!

How to use this song

Learning objectives

Stepping Stone

Respond to sound with body movement.

Early Learning Goal

Recognise repeated sounds and sound patterns and match movements to music. **(CD)**

Group size

12 children.

Props

Pictures of Mexican people wearing traditional dress such as sombreros, rebozo (colourful shawls), ponchos and serapes (blankets worn over the shoulder); eight maracas; colourful lengths of fabric; simple home-made child-sized ponchos; sombreros, or sun hats with a wide brim.

Sharing the song

Share this song with the children at circle time before a discussion about Mexican life, or during a dance session. Link the song to planned activities supporting different aspects of themes such as 'countries of the world', 'food' and 'clothes'.

Before singing the song, look at pictures of traditional Mexican dress together and name the garments. Introduce the lengths of fabric and home-made ponchos and suggest that the children choose something they would like to wear as they sing and dance. Explain what is meant by an enchilada, referring to something within the child's experience such as a tortilla, fajita or pancake.

Listen to the song and invite the children to clap the rhythm, explaining that this is a Mexican salsa beat. Have the children ever

heard of salsa dancing? Invite them to dress in their choice of Mexican clothing and make up their own salsa dance to the instrumental version of the song. Suggest that four of the children play maracas to emphasise the rhythm.

Once the children are familiar with the Mexican aspects of the song omit these introductory discussions.

Always be willing to try any new ideas the children might have, for example, to play an alternative instrument as accompaniment or to wear different dressing up clothes.

Activity ideas

- Follow the recipe on page 13 to make some enchiladas or tortillas to share at snack time. Encourage the children to choose their own fillings and talk about their taste preferences. Remember to gain permission for the children to taste food and to check for any food allergies. **(PSED)**

- Convert the home area into a Mexican house by draping the sides with white sheeting printed with brick shapes in a terracotta colour. Supply colourful fabrics for rebozo, serapes and ponchos and some wide-brimmed hats. **(CLL)**

- Talk about how Mexicans love wearing coloured beads and make some beads from clay balls with a hole pierced through the centre. Bake and then paint in different colours and varnish. Thread the beads onto lengths of string in sequences to create repeat patterns. **(MD)**

- Obtain a recording of the Mexican Hat Dance, a very fast tune played on a guitar, traditionally danced by couples wearing Mexican dress. Play it for the children and have fun wearing large hats and making up your own hat dances. **(PD)**