

ENFIELD MUSIC SERVICE

SING UP DAY

Celebration

26 June 2024

I Belong by

Roseanne Reid

Join us on 26 June 2024 for our EMS Sing Up Day celebration.

This year's featured song *I belong* by **Roseanne Reid**, offers opportunities and activities to consider and reflect on how we are included in and connected to the various groups and communities that we belong to.

Encourage children to reflect and think positively about their own individual qualities and celebrate the times and occasions that bring us together, especially when we are singing!

This uplifting song and resource are sure to complement work around children's wellbeing and your school values.

Resource downloads

[*I Belong* Performance example track](#)

[*I Belong* Backing track](#)

[*I Belong* Slides](#)



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Lyrics

Ah, the road is paved for ev'ryone,
Under the moon, under the sun,
If I walk or if I run, I will find my way.
I feel the earth beneath my feet,
A smile as far as the eye can see,
And no darkness frightens me today.

Ooh, ooh, ev'rybody sing it now:
Ooh, ooh, my mind is strong,
Ooh, ooh, by myself or in a crowd,
I belong, oh, I belong.

Ah, the sea is deep as the sky is wide,
And our hearts beat the same inside,
So with kindness as our guiding star,
We all grow with the tall, tall trees
With their leaves waving into the breeze,
All together we'll go near and far.

Ooh, ooh, ev'rybody sing it now:
Ooh, ooh, my mind is strong,
Ooh, ooh, by myself or in a crowd,
I belong, oh, I belong

Said, I belong to the water, belong to the land,
And I know I'm not alone when you take me by the hand,
I always know this world has a place for me.

x3

Ooh, ooh, ev'rybody sing it now:
Ooh, ooh, my mind is strong,
Ooh, ooh, by myself or in a crowd,
I belong, oh, I belong.

x2



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Guidance for learning the song:

Before you begin:

- Listen to the performance track and familiarize yourself with the structure of the song, particularly the beginnings and endings of sections.
- Follow the lyrics carefully noting the placing of words and notes within the off-beat syncopated rhythm. Note which phrases start on or off the beat.
- Consider the message of the song and how you will approach this in relation to the age of your singers.

Warm-up:

- This song embodies the essence of how singing together in a group develops unity and cohesion. In your warm-up, focus on building the group dynamic and awareness of each other when singing.
- Beginnings and endings are key to a tidy, polished performance - have a good shake to the phrase '*shake and shake and shake and stop*' - when you say stop everyone freezes in a statue until you start again. Repeat 4 times, then with another action such as running on the spot, clapping or tapping knees.
- On the track, Roseanne sings with a beautiful gentle, lilting tone. The lower pitch range of the song requires relaxed throats and no tension. Write your names in the air with your forehead/nose and chin to loosen up.
- Do some big belly laughs and have a good yawn and a stretch.
- Scrunch up the face like an old, dry raisin and squeeze shoulders up to the ears, count to 4 then suddenly drop and relax with a big *whoosh!*

Learning the song:

- Listen to the performance track, following the words.
- Discuss the title and the words. What do they think the song is about? Can they pick out any words or phrases that are particularly significant?
- Point out and be aware of the rhyming words at the ends of phrases. This will help memorize words for performance.
- Do not rush learning. Attention to sections and details from the outset will generate a secure and polished performance at the end.
- Learn the chorus first - noting the first and third phrases start on the beat and the second is off-beat which may be a tricky corner!



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- Play the track and join in with the chorus each time. This helps generate an understanding of the structure - think of the song as a jigsaw - how do all the pieces fit together/how does the chorus fit into the whole? This also allows further listening to the verses and middle 8 so they become more familiar.
- Before singing any of the melody it will be useful to chant through and repeat the rhythm of phrases. By securing the rhythm first, the melody
- Use hands to gesture the pitch movement of phrases - how does the tune move up and down.
- The melody of the middle 8 tune uses repeated notes and stepwise movement.
- If you are doing the optional harmony, this sits beautifully in thirds over the melody and follows the same rhythmic shape and pitch movement, so once started, is accessible for your older or more experienced singers to hold the part.

Performance:

- Keep knees and posture relaxed, make sure knees aren't locked.
- Be sure to smile and raise eyebrows.
- Memorizing the words will mean that you can focus on communicating the message of the song effectively.
- Ensure diction is clear but relaxed - the words need to be distinct without being clipped and jumpy.
- Make sure singers are watching and following cues to start and stop phrases together gently but clearly.
- Add dynamics for interest and variation, getting gradually louder as the texture grows in the middle 8 towards the final rousing chorus. Keep the tone light, however, and not shouty!
- Stand tall and focused for the end till the last moment - the performance does not necessarily end just because you have finished singing - take your time for a professional finish. Encourage singers to count slowly to 5 at the end to 'hold' the performance.
- If you are directing your singers, use visual cues and gestures to support the navigation through the song - pre-empt what is coming up and prepare singers for the next bit!
- Discuss Roseanne's singing on the performance track. What characterizes this type of folk singing - note features such as the gentle singing style, and the light vocal inflections or decorations. Can you add these to your own performance?
- Choreographed actions can add to your performance but be careful they do not take away from the singing. Any actions should enhance the lyrics and message so be careful not to over choreograph - too much flapping around can be a distraction, as well as being tricky to coordinate!
- Feature the song in a celebration of your school community. Think about the power of group singing and its ability to unite people and brings communities together.



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Have a think:

We all belong to many different groups, communities, and teams.

- Think about the groups you belong to.
 - Where is your favourite place to be?
 - Where do you feel safe?
 - Where do you call home?
 - Where do you feel appreciated and valued?
 - Where do you feel confident and proud?
 - What makes you unique?
 - How do we make people feel welcome and included?

Fact File:

- The world's longest human chain was in India in 2020. 51.7 million people held hands across 11,000 miles.
- In 2022 the world population was said to have reached 8 billion people!
- Our universe has 7 septillion stars: 7,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 and each one is unique! That is 24 zeros!

Try This!

- World Wellbeing Week 2024 is 26th - 30th June.
 - This year's theme is *Movement: Moving more for our mental health*.
 - Choreograph your own moves to the Sing Up Day song.
- Watch *People Will Always Need People* by Benjamin Zephaniah:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EC57oeaDpfM>
 - And you can even buy the book for your reading areas!
- Organize the whole school in a human chain around the playground!
- Create your own class people paper chain or class family tree and get everyone to decorate their own unique person!
- Check out these ideas for paper people chains:
 - <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/ideas/how-to-make-paper-people-chains>



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