

**SUGGESTED RHYMES AND SONGS FOR 2011 UNDER 8'S WEEK "FROM BUSH  
TO BEACH – LET THEM GROW AND TO CELEBRATE 2011 INTERNATIONAL  
YEAR OF FORESTS.**

*"If all the trees were one tree  
What a great tree that would be"*

*Traditional*

Developed by Gwen Rayner, ECA Queensland branch Under 8's team, for use with very young children by families and educators during 2011 Under 8's Week and beyond in the 2011 International Year of Forests.

**Adapted from OVER IN THE MEADOW  
19<sup>th</sup> century South Appalachian Counting Rhyme**

**Over in the forest**

Over in the forest  
Where crystal creeks run  
Lived a mummy Red Kangaroo  
And her Red Joey One  
"Hop" said the Mummy  
"I hop" said the one  
So they hopped and they hopped  
Where the crystal creeks run.

Over in the forest  
Under a sky so blue  
Lived a old mummy wombat  
And her little wombats two  
"Dig" said the mummy  
"We dig" said the two  
So they dug and they dug  
Under a sky so blue

Over in the forest  
In a hole in a tree  
Lived a mummy Boobook Owl  
And her little owlets three  
"Swoop" said the mummy  
"We swoop" said the three  
So they swooped and they whooped  
Near the hole in the tree.

Over in the forest  
On the creek bed floor  
Lived a shy mother platypus  
And her platypi four  
"Swim" said the mummy  
"We swim" said the four  
So they swam and they splashed  
On the creek bed floor.

Over in the forest  
In a hidden away hive  
Lived a mother native bee  
And her native bees five  
"Buzz" said the mummy  
"We buzz" said the five  
So they buzzed and they hummed  
In a hidden away hive  
*Adaptation by Gwen Rayner 2011*

## Counting gum trees

*Chant: One potato*

One gum tree, two gum trees, three gum trees four  
Five gum trees, six gum trees – let's plant some more!

*Traditional - adapted*

## Growing trees

*Tune: Twinkle twinkle*

Growing, growing all the trees  
In the forests for all to see  
Some are very, very tall  
Some are very, very small  
Growing, growing all the trees  
In the forests for all to see.

*Traditional – adapted.*

Trees in the forest

*Tune: Skip to my lou*

Trees in the forest – growing up tall  
Trees in the forest – growing up tall  
Trees in the forest – growing up tall  
In the Australian bushland.

Verses:

Here is a grey gum – growing up tall  
Here is a scribbly gum – growing up tall  
Here is an ironbark – growing up tall.  
Here is a redwood – growing up tall

*Include a variety of gum trees in your local area to encourage children to become aware of the variety and diversity of trees and their specific names.*

*Last verse*

Final statement: Here is Mountain Ash – growing up very, very, very tall!!

*Gwen Rayner 2011*

## TREES FOR KOALAS

*Tune: Frere Jacques*

Trees for Koalas (Echo) Trees for Koalas  
In our bush (Echo) In our bush  
A koala is a leaf feeder (Echo) A koala is a leaf feeder  
Save Koala Trees (Echo) Save Koala Trees

Koala is a leaf feeder  
In our bush  
They are very choosy  
Eating gum leaves.

Forest Red Gum  
Is a koala leaf tree  
Koalas like to eat them  
Save these trees

*The following trees are recognised as important food trees for koalas in SE Queensland:  
Substitute names of koala food trees in the song*

Tallow wood  
Small fruited grey gum  
Red stringbark  
Spotted gum tree  
Scribbly gum tree  
Queensland Blue Gum

Ref: Planting for Wildlife: Trees for Koala QPWS Old Government

*Last verse*  
Grow your own tree  
For the koalas  
Choose a local species  
Plant in the bush.  
*Gwen Rayner 2011*

**GREEN LEAVES**  
*Tune: Twinkle, twinkle*

Green leaves, green leaves on the tree  
Swaying in the breeze, way above me  
Growing up tall to reach the sky  
How big will you grow – so very high  
Green leaves, green leaves on the tree  
Swaying in the breeze way above me.

**I'VE BEEN WALKING IN THE BUSHLAND**  
*Tune: I've been working on the railway*  
Circle game.

I've been walking in the bushland  
All among the trees  
I've been walking in the bushland  
Spotting birds and bees

I saw a scribbly gum tree  
All among the trees  
I saw a scribbly gum tree  
When spotting birds and bees.

*Other verses:*  
I saw a grey gum tree  
I saw a red gum tree  
I saw a ghost gum tree etc  
*Adapted by Gwen Rayner 2011*

**FURRY LITTLE POSSUM**  
*Tune: Grand Old Duke of York*

Oh the furry little possum  
It searches out for flowers  
He/She climbs up and down the old gum tree  
Looking for hours and hours  
Oh up, up, up he/she goes  
And down, down, down he/she comes  
He/She runs around – goes up and down  
His/Her work is never done!!  
*Gwen Rayner 2011*

*Can substitute a glider into this cute song.*

*The following poem was taken from [www.preschoolrainbow.org](http://www.preschoolrainbow.org)*

**IN AUTUMN**

In Autumn when the trees are brown  
The little leaves come tumbling down  
They do make the slightest sound  
But lie so quietly on the ground  
Until the wind comes puffing by  
And blows them off towards the sky.

*The following rhymes and songs were taken from [www.canteach.ca](http://www.canteach.ca)*

*The seeds we plant today  
With sun and rain and rest  
Will grow to be the shade  
That all the land wears best  
Dick Hayman*

## UNDER THE SPREADING OLD FIG TREE

*Tune: Under the spreading chestnut tree*

Under the spreading old fig tree  
In the shade just you and me  
Oh how happy we will be  
Under the spreading old fig tree  
*Traditional - adapted*

The following rhymes and songs were taken from: <http://www.theholidayzone.com/arbor/songs.html>

## A TREE IS A HOME

*Action Rhyme*

A tree may be a home for bird  
(*Flap arms like a bird.*)  
Tweet, tweet!

A tree may be a home for bee  
(*Make a triangle with thumb, index finger, and middle finger. Buzz it all around.*)  
Bzzzzz!

A tree may be a home for a snake  
(*Weave hand in and out like a slithering snake.*)  
Sssssss!

A tree may be a home for a chimpanzee  
(*Pretend to swing through branches.*)  
Wheee!  
Hmmm.  
(*Touch finger to chin.*)  
I wonder if a tree  
(*Form tree with body.*)  
Would make a good home for ME?  
(*Point to self.*)

## I'M A TREE: I HAVE FOUR NEEDS

*Tune of "Skip to My Lou"*

I'm a tree; I have four needs.  
I'm a tree; I have four needs.  
I'm a tree; I have four needs.  
Do you know what they are?

I need lots and lots of sun,  
I need lots and lots of sun,  
I need lots and lots of sun  
To grow big and strong.

I need water now and then,  
I need water now and then,  
I need water now and then  
To grow big and strong.

I need air just like you,  
I need air just like you,  
I need air just like you  
To grow big and strong.

I need soil for my roots,  
I need soil for my roots,  
I need soil for my roots  
To grow big and strong.

*The following three songs were written for the 2010 International Year of Diversity and published on ECA Under 8's website – some slight changes have been made for the 2011 International Year of Forests.*

## Possum sleeps

*Tune: Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree*

**Possum** sleeps on an old gum tree  
Where the sun shines on you and me  
Sleep little possum, sleep little possum  
Warm and cosily.

**Koala** sleeps on an old gum tree  
Where the sun shines on you and me  
Sleep little koala, sleep little koala  
Warm and cosily.

**Glider** sleeps on an old gum tree  
Where the sun shines on you and me  
Sleep little glider, sleep little glider  
Warm and cosily.

**Goanna** sleeps on an old gum tree  
Where the sun shines on you and me  
Sleep little goanna, sleep little goanna  
Warm and cosily.

**Snake** sleeps on an old gum tree  
Where the sun shines on you and me  
Sleep little snake, sleep little snake  
Warm and cosily.

**Lizards** sleep on the old gum tree  
Where the sun shines on you and me  
Sleep little possum, sleep little possum  
Warm and cosily.

**Green ants** sleep on an old gum tree  
Where the sun shines on you and me  
Sleep little ants, sleep little ants  
Warm and cosily.

**Barn Owl** sleeps on an old gum tree  
Where the sun shines on you and me  
Sleep little owl, sleep little owl  
Warm and cosily.

*Based on a rhyme from  
[www.preschooleducation.com/snursery.shtml](http://www.preschooleducation.com/snursery.shtml)*

*A circle game – children holding hands and walking around in a circle and then acting as the animals found in the tree.*

## **What lives in an old gum tree?**

*Tune: Here we go round the mulberry bush*

What lives in an old gum tree?  
An old gum tree, an old gum tree  
What lives in an old gum tree?  
In Australian forests.

A koala lives in an old gum tree

An old gum tree, an old gum tree  
A koala lives in an old gum tree  
In Australian forests  
*Traditional - adapted*

*Substitute the names of other animals which are found in trees in Australian forests.*

## **If you're ever in the rainforest**

*(Tune: If you ever see a lassie)*

If you're ever in the rainforest  
The rainforest, the rainforest  
If you're ever in the rainforest  
You might see some frogs

Hop this way and that way  
And this way and that way  
If you're ever in the rainforest  
You might see some frogs

If you're ever in the rainforest  
The rainforest, the rainforest  
If you're ever in the rainforest  
You might see a snake

Slither this way and that way  
And this way and that way  
If you're ever in the rainforest  
You might see a snake

If you're ever in the rainforest  
The rainforest, the rainforest  
If you're ever in the rainforest  
You might see platypus

Swim this way and that way  
And this way and that way  
If you're ever in the rainforest  
You might see platypus

If you're ever in the rainforest  
The rainforest, the rainforest  
If you're ever in the rainforest  
You might see turkey

Scratch this way and that way  
And this way and that way  
If you're ever in the rainforest  
You might see a turkey

If you're ever in the rainforest  
The rainforest, the rainforest  
If you're ever in the rainforest  
You might see echidna

Snuffle this way and that way  
And this way and that way  
If you're ever in the rainforest  
You might see echidna

If you're ever in the rainforest  
The rainforest, the rainforest  
If you're ever in the rainforest  
You might see some birds

Fly this way and that way  
And this way and that way  
If you're ever in the rainforest  
You might see some birds

If you're ever in the rainforest  
The rainforest, the rainforest  
If you're ever in the rainforest  
You might see an owl

Swoop this way and that way  
And this way and that way  
If you're ever in the rainforest  
You might see an owl

*Based on rhymes from*  
[www.preschooleducation.com/snursery.shtml](http://www.preschooleducation.com/snursery.shtml)