An Australian animal alphabet
(Tread lightly on the Earth my friend)
Click go the shears
Did you ever see a kangaroo?
Good morning Mrs Dingo
Grandma saw a possum
Great big boomers
Hop, hop, hop
How does a kangaroo go?
I got kicked by a kangaroo
I walked along in the bush one day
I'm Hoppity Hop the kangaroo
Kangaroo Brown
Kangaroos like to hop
Kookaburra
Little Tommy Tadpole
Look at the terrible crocodile
Maranoa lullaby
One snail, two snails
Platypus, echidna
Said the kind kangaroo
Tadpole, tadpole what do you see?
The emu and the kookaburra
The kangaroo
The ostrich
The sneezing fisherman
Three jellyfish
Who wants an octopus cuddle?
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An Australian animal alphabet
(Tread lightly on the Earth my friend)

Words and music by Dany Rosevear ©

Midi:
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nxij1aa7JNI

What a curious continent with such unique and wonderful animals!

This song is quite a challenge to learn but its alphabetical structure will aid the memory.

SPOKEN
Tread lightly on the Earth my friend, tread lightly as you go,
Leave it as you found it for tomorrow’s child to know.
Albatross, archerfish, angel shark and ant, Bilby, bandicoot, budgie, brolga, bat. Cassowary, cockatoo, crocodile, cane toad, Dugong, dolphin and dingo by the road. In the bush, the swamps, the skies, the oceans all around, We came along and wondered at the creatures we had found.

Emu, echidna, eastern tiger snake, Fairy penguin, frilled lizard, flying foxes wake. Galah, goanna, gecko and the great white shark, Humpbacked whale, hare and hog deer leaping through the dark. In the bush, the swamps, the skies, the oceans all around, We came along and wondered at the creatures we had found.

Ivy leaf roller, island thrush, ibis, Jacky lizard, jabiru and box jellyfish. Kookaburra, koala bear, kestrel, kangaroo, Lyrebird, lorikeet, long-footed potoroo. In the bush, the swamps, the skies the oceans all around, We came along and wondered at the creatures we had found.

Marsupial mole, magpie, Nightjar and numbat, Orcas, osprey, octopus, oystercatchers catch. Possum, pelican, parrot, platypus, Quokka, quoll and button quail making such a fuss. In the bush, the swamps, the skies, the oceans all around, We came along and wondered at the creatures we had found.

Red back spider, rainbow lorikeet, Sugar glider, stink bug, swordfish and the sheep. Tree frog, tiger moth, turtle and termite,
Ulysses butterfly so beautiful in flight.
In the bush, the swamps, the skies, the oceans all around,
We came along and wondered at the creatures we had found.

Vine hawk moth, vinegar fly, velvet gecko then,
Wombat, wallaby, willy wagtail, wren.
Many extinct animals then
Yabby, yakka skink,
Z is for the zebras; lionfish, shark and finch.
In the bush, the swamps, the skies, the oceans all around,
We came along and wondered at the creatures we had found.

SPoken
Tread lightly on the Earth my friend, tread lightly as you go,
Leave it as you found it for tomorrow’s child to know.
Click go the shears

Midi: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QV_h0v6vFc
Roud # 8398. The tune is an adaptation of the American Civil War song "Ring the Bell, Watchman" by Henry Clay Work. Find out more at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Click_Go_the_Shears
I learnt the version below in the 1980s from the children’s Music Box programme
Down by the pen, there the old shearer stands,
Grasping the shears in his thin bony hands,
Fixed is his gaze on the next sheep to come,
In a little minute boys, another’s done.

Chorus:
Click go the shears boys, Click, click, click!
Wide is his blow and his hands move so quick,
The ringer looks around and is beaten by a blow,
Zip! Another sheep is done and let him go.

In the middle of the floor in his cane-bottomed chair,
There sits the boss with his eyes everywhere;
Notes well each fleece as it comes to the screen,
Paying strict attention that it's taken clean.

The tar-boy is there, awaiting command,
With his black tar pot, and his black tarry hands,
Sees one old sheep with a cut upon its back,
Here's what he's waiting for it's, "Tar here, Jack!"
Did you ever see a kangaroo? **Yes sir!**
Did you ever see a kangaroo? **Yes sir!**
Did you ever see a kangaroo
Playing on a didgeridoo?
**Yes sir!** Surely not sir? **Would I lie?**

Did you ever see a platypus? **Yes sir!**
Did you ever see a platypus? **Yes sir!**
Did you ever see a platypus
Jumping on a Sydney bus?
**Yes sir!** Surely not sir? **Would I lie?**
Did you ever see a bandicoot? Yes sir!
Did you ever see a bandicoot? Yes sir!
Did you ever see a bandicoot
Bungie jump and loop the loop?
Yes sir! Surely not sir? Would I lie?

...kookaburra... ... Surf boarding at Scarborough....
...great white whale... Swimming in a water pail
...jellyfish... ...Wave a wand to make a wish...
Good morning Mrs Dingo,
Good morning Mrs Fly,
Good morning Mrs Kangaroo,
The sun is in the sky.
Good morning, good morning,
The sun is in the sky.

Good morning Mr Donkey,
Good morning Mr Pup,
Good morning Mrs Buffalo,
The sun.....is....up!
Good morning, good morning,
The sun.....is....up!
Grandma saw a possum

And so she did with granddad on her grandson’s very first birthday. It was on New Year’s Eve 2013 at Tarpeian Precinct overlooking Sydney Harbour Bridge! Down the gum tree ran the marsupial and scarpered across the park in the hot sunshine much to the delight of the multinational crowd that had gathered to watch the fireworks that day.

This is just a song to enjoy rather than a singing game.

Grandma saw a possum,
It ran down a tree,
“G’day,” said the possum,
“You can’t ketch me!”

Chorus
Well, a possum is a possum,
And a cross one possibly,
If you tried to toss a possum
Off a eucalyptus tree.

“You betcha?” cried old grandma,
She chucked up her hat.
It landed on the possum
And stopped it in its track.

“Is it night time?” cried the possum,
“I can no longer see.”
So he popped it in his pocket
And he ran back up the tree.

Grandma danced a jig,
She danced the old can can,
While possum twirled the hat around
Shouting “Ketch it if you ken!”

Grandma caught her hat,
She doffed it high and low.
She blew the possum kisses
And danced off on tippy toes.
No visit to Australia is complete without sight or sound of the amazing wildlife to be found in the outback, bush and billabong. Early and late in the day are the times when these creatures stir and make themselves known with their movements and incredible choruses.

Male kangaroos have several different nicknames ‘boomer’ is one of them. Others include: jacks, bucks and old men.

I’d like to see the great big boomers,
Bouncing in the bush lands,
I’d like to see the great big boomers,
Bouncing as the sun goes down.

Hippy hop, don’t stop, great big boomers,
Hippy hop, don’t stop, leap and bound,
Hippy hop, don’t stop, great big boomers,
Bouncing as the sun goes down.
Hippy hop, don’t stop, great big boomerangs,
Bouncing as the sun goes down.

I’d like to see the long necked turtles,
Paddling in the billabong,
I’d like to see the long necked turtles,
Paddling as the sun goes down.
Snippety snap, long necked turtles,
Snippety snap, all around!
Snippety snap, long necked turtles,
Paddling as the sun goes down.

I’d like to watch the dingoes dancing,
Dancing in the outback,
I’d like to watch the dingoes dancing,
Dancing as the sun goes down.
Howl as the sunsets, dancing dingoes,
Howl as the sunsets, paw the ground,
Howl as the sunsets, dancing dingoes,
Dancing as the sun goes down.

I’d like to hear the kookaburra,
Laughing in the treetops,
I’d like to hear the kookaburra,
Laughing as the sun comes up.
Whoop-a-whoop, hoo ha ha, kookaburra,
Whoop-a-whoop, woo, you’ll get hiccups,
Whoop-a-whoop, hoo ha ha, kookaburra,
Laughing as the sun comes up.
Hop, hop, hop
Go and never stop.
Hop along old kangaroo,
May I ride away with you?
Hop, hop, hop, hop, hop,
Go and never stop!

Whoa, whoa, whoa,
We’ve not far to go.

Midi:
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lVPeoWNI20A
Can you hop on one foot? It’s easy on two!
Originally a German children’s song ‘Hopp, hopp, hopp’ this baby bouncing game is translated into English as ‘Trot, trot, tot’.

Place baby on your lap facing you and off you go.
Young children can bounce around on two feet, join with a partner for the second verse and attempt to hop on one foot for the last verse. Stand perfectly still at the end of the song – probably the most difficult thing to do!
Safe and snug inside your pocket,
Off we go just like a rocket,
Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa,
We’ve not far to go.

Hop, hop, hop,
Now its time to stop.
You hopped on two feet kangaroo,
Can you hop on one foot too?
Hop, hop, hop, hop, hop,
Whoa, now its time to stop!
How does a kangaroo go?
Dear me, does anybody know?
How does a kangaroo go?
A-jump, a-jump the whole day long

A wobbly wombat – wobble, wobble

A kookaburra – Koo-koo-kaa-kaa

A frilled neck lizard – sssss

A sleepy kola - mmmmmm!
I got kicked by a kangaroo

Midi:
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x04ePiwMwy8
A lovely alliterative song. Make up verses about other Australian animals.
I got whopped by a wallaby...
I got tickled by a tiger snake...
I got flapped by a flying fox...

I got kicked by a kangaroo,
I got kicked by a kangaroo.
Kanga, kanga, roo roo roo,
Kanga, kanga, roo roo roo.
I got kicked by a kangaroo.

I got bitten by a bandicoot,
I got bitten by a bandicoot.
Bandi, bandi, coot coot coot,
Bandi, bandi, coot coot coot.
I got bitten by a bandicoot.

I got pushed by a platypus...
Platy, platy, pus pus pus...
I got kissed by a koala bear....
Koala, koala, bear bear bear...

I got crushed by a crocodile...
Croco, croco, dile dile dile...

I got gobbled by a great white shark...
Great white, great white, shark shark shark...

So they sent me back to Bendigo,
They sent me back to Bendigo.
Bendi, Bendi, go go go,
Bendi, Bendi, go go go.
They sent me back to Bendigo.
I walked along in the bush

Midi:  
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7V9-2WlyD7s
I got this one from the Kindergarten in the Air book though the tune is the one more familiar to English ears. It is based on the well known song ‘I went to visit the farm one day’ with farm animal noises. It could be adapted to any place where there are groups of animals such as the zoo / pond / seaside.
Add verses of your own.

What sound does a frog make in Australia? This site has them from around the world but not an Australian one. http://allaboutfrogs.org/weird/general/songs.html

Actions:
Walk around the space. Put hand to eyes. Stop and put hand to ears. Make sound of the animals and then set off again.

I walked along in the bush one day;  
I saw a crow across the way.  
And what do you think I heard it say?  
Caw! Caw! Caw!

I walked along in the bush one day;  
I saw a snake across the way.  
And what do you think I heard it say?  
Hiss! Hiss! Hiss!
I walked along in the bush one day;  
I saw a frog across the way.  
And what do you think I heard it say?  
Ribbet! Ribbet! Ribbet!

I walked along in the bush one day;  
I saw a crocodile across the way.  
And what do you think I heard it say?  
Snip! Snap! Snip! Snap!
I'm Hoppity Hop the kangaroo

Midi:  
YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aC44pcgiMP8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aC44pcgiMP8)

This song was written by Jean E. Webb and appeared in *The Child’s World* (Songs, stories and verses from Kindergarten of the Air) published in 1973 by ABC. The second two optional verses by Dany Rosevear will turn it into a cooperative game.

*It can be used as a baby lap bouncing game or young toddlers can bounce around preferably outside with great big leaps. Older children can find a partner in the second verse and hop one behind the other; pairs then join together to hop in fours. This could continue until the whole group is hopping!*
I'm Hoppity Hop the kangaroo.
Kangaroo Brown

Midi:
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRhRAmntdiw
Jump to Australia in this energetic workout with a simple rhythm. Try singing at different speeds with leisurely long jumps for a tired kangaroo or fast little ones as Kangaroo Brown hurries off to town.

Watch a rather bizarre animated video at:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqzCe5TkP0w

Younger children can move individually to the music. Older ones can synchronize actions with those of a partner.

Verse two and three added by Dany Rosevear

Jump, jump, Kangaroo Brown!
Jump, jump, Kangaroo Brown!
Jump, jump, up hill and down!
Jump, jump, Kangaroo Brown!

Hop, hop, Hippetty Hare!
Hop, hop, hop up in the air!
Hop, hop, hop here and there!
Hop, hop, Hippetty Hare!

Bounce, bounce, Wallaby Woo!
Bounce, bounce, to Kalamazoo!
Bounce, bounce, can we come too?
Bounce, bounce, Wallaby Woo!
Kangaroos like to hop

Kangaroos like to hop, - HOP HOP HOP HOP HOP
Bounce baby up and down on the floor.
And frogs like to leap – WHEEEEE!
Make a long jump.
Horses like to trot –CLIP CLOP! CLIP CLOP!
Make little bounces
But I like to fall in a heap – BONK!
Drop to the floor
Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree,
Merry, merry king of the bush is he,
Laugh kookaburra, laugh kookaburra,
Gay your life must be.

Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree,
Eating all the gumdrops he can see,
Stop kookaburra, stop kookaburra,
Leave some there for me.

Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree,
Counting all the monkeys he can see,
Laugh kookaburra, laugh kookaburra,
That’s not a monkey, that’s me.
Little Tommy Tadpole began to weep and wail,
For little Tommy Tadpole had lost his little tail;
His mother didn't know him as he wept upon a log,
For he wasn't Tommy Tadpole, but Mr. Thomas Frog!

Midi: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mD3u57B7GM

More properly titled as ‘Growing up’ this rhyme is by C. J. Dennis
http://www.poemhunter.com/clarence-michael-james-stanislaus-dennis/biography/
an Australian poet and author who published it in ‘A Book for Kids’ in 1921. The
music is by Jackson / Clayton from the Playmates songbook.
Look at the terrible crocodile

A game played in pairs.
One child opens and closes the palms of their hands as the second child places one hand on top of the other and sticks thumbs out to swim like a fish. On the third line the ‘crocodile’ opens jaws wide – arms open and close. The ‘fishy’ inches nearer but on the last line swims away.

Look at the terrible crocodile,
I-oh, I-oh, I-oh.
He’s swimming down the river Nile,
I-oh, I-oh, I-oh.
See how his jaws are open wide,
I-oh, I-oh, I-oh.
A poor little fishy is swimming inside…….

Spoken
Oh no he isn’t, he’s swimming the other way!

Sung
I-oh, I-oh, I-oh.
**Maranoa lullaby**

Midi:
YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SlrNc5vbQA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SlrNc5vbQA)

This is an aboriginal lullaby from Southwest Queensland.
The words are by M. Lyell from Singing Together, Spring 1972, BBC Publications

Day now folds its wings,
Sleep while mother sings,
Dark the night and deep,
Time for you to sleep.
Mamma waruno, Murra wathuno,
Mamma waruno, Murra wathuno.

Soft the breezes blow,
Rock you to and fro,
While the stars above
Shine on you with love.
Mamma waruno...

Gently close your eyes,
Now the moon will rise,
With the morning light,
Stars are put to flight.
Mamma waruno...
Day now folds its wings,
Sleep while mother sings,
Dark the night and deep,
Time for you to sleep.
Mamma waruno...
One snail, two snails Had a little talk:
One snail, two snails Went a little walk.
They came to a garden And climbed up a tree
Where a jolly old kookaburra Gobbled up the three.

Midi:
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGkeQDxbN-g
This Australian rhyme is by Mary Gilmore; Music by Dany Rosevear.

Make fingers move like snails – one on left hand two on the other. Make a kookaburra beak with one hand and grab the other.
Platypus, echidna

Midi:
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nEvktbiBhLc

Go up the musical scale using Australian animal names. Make up more verses - there are so many native creatures you can choose.
Words by Norma Tovey.
If you would like a more challenging song for older children see An Australian Animal Alphabet above.

Platypus, echidna, bandicoot and bat,
Wallaby and eagle, dingo, native cat.

Lyrebird and lizard, mouse and budgerigar,
Emu, seal and penguin, goanna and galah.
Said the kind kangaroo, "Oh, what shall I do? (Shrug shoulders and throw out hands) If I had a cradle, I'd rock it. (Cup hands and rock them) But my baby is small, so I think after all, I'll carry her round in my pocket!" (Cup hand on tummy and put the other inside)
Said the kind kangaroo, "Oh, what shall I do? There isn’t much room in my pocket. Now my baby is big and is dancing a jig, Tell me what can I do that will stop it!"

Said the wise potoroo to the kind kangaroo, "It is time for your baby to hop it. For she needs to get out, of that there’s no doubt; Just watch her go off like a rocket!"

Said the kind kangaroo, "Oh, what shall I do? I have an unoccupied pocket, For my baby has flown and left me alone; I shall have to move on or restock it!"
Tadpole, tadpole what do you see?
I see a yabby a-looking at me.

Yabby, yabby, what do you see?
I see a little frog a-looking at me.

Little frog, little frog, what do you see?
I see a big crab a-looking at me.

Big crag, big crab, what do you see?
I see a hungry fish a-looking at me.

Midi:
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NkJPlcEGkg
This retelling of Eric Carle’s ‘Brown bear, brown bear what do you see?’ comes from Australia’s Northern Territory Department of Education materials. I made some slight changes and have written music for the song.
Hungry fish, hungry fish, what do you see?
I see a turtle a-looking at me.
Turtle, turtle, what do you see?
I see a water snake a-looking at me.

Water snake, water snake, what do you see?
I see a crocodile a-looking at me.
Crocodile, crocodile, what do you see?
I see mamma croc a-waiting for me!
The emu and the kookaburra

Midi:
You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ay0-FPyGA4
This song can be used as a knee bouncing game for a baby or toddler.
The original verses come from versions of ‘Ain’t it great to be crazy’. This one with a key change in the second verse was adapted by Mike Jackson (?).
If you feel adventurous you could add further verses getting higher each time!

Up in the north and a long way off, The emu’s got the whooping cough, He coughed so hard his head fell off,

Up in the north and a long way off, Way up yonder and not far off, A kook-a-burr-a died of the whooping cough, He whooped so much with the whooping cough, That he whooped his head and his tail right off. Yes, he whooped his head and his tail right off!
Up in the North and a long way off, 
The emu's got the whooping cough, 
He coughed so hard his head fell off, 
Up in the North and a long way off.

Way up yonder and not far off, 
A kookaburra died of the whooping cough, 
He whooped so hard with the whooping cough, 
That he whooped his head and his tail right off. 
Yes, he whooped his head and his tail right off.
The kangaroo

Midi:
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAQ09UahpFk

This is a very old Australian rhyme and Fee Showell makes a reference to it in her delightful account of school in 1921.

Old Jumpety-Bumpety-Hop-and Go-One
Was lying asleep on his side in the sun.
This old kangaroo, he was whisking the flies,
With his long glossy tail, from his ears and his eyes.
Jumpety-Bumpety-Hop-and Go-One
Was lying asleep on his side in the sun,
Jumpety-Bumpety-Hop!
The ostrich

Midi:  
YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sv-kf9OBZeHM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sv-kf9OBZeHM)

Most of the creatures in the songs above are native to Australia, the ostrich however is an introduced species and in some places has gone feral. There are no hedgehogs in Australia but they could be replaced in this rhyme by an echidna a marsupial unrelated to the hedgehog – it is a spiny anteater.

Here is the ostrich straight and tall,  
**Stretch arm above head**  
Nodding his head above us all.  
Here is the long snake on the ground,  
**Move arm like a snake**  
Wriggling upon the stones he found.  
Here are the birds that fly so high,  
**Cross hands and flap like wings**  
Spreading their wings across the sky.  
Here is the hedgehog, prickly and small,  
**Hands together with fingers sticking out**  
Rolling himself into a ball.  
Here is the spider scuttling around,  
**Hands and fingers make spider movements**  
Treading so lightly on the ground.  
Here are the children fast asleep,  
**Hands to cheek**  
And here at night the owls do peep.  
**Make thumb and forefinger into rings**  
Too whit too whoo! Too whit too whoo!
A fisherman went out one day,
To catch some schnapper in the bay.
But all he caught was a nasty cold,
That stayed with him till he grew old.
He sneezed and wheezed and wheezed and sneezed.
Each time he sneezed he looked displeased;
He sneezed and wheezed every night and day,
Until he sneezed himself away!
Midi: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-S7KadNKUA
Another from the book ‘Kindergarten of the air’ though I recently found it in the classic children’s compendium ‘This little Puffin’. – I had thought it must have originated in warmer climes. It was written by Jean Chadwick.

Use fingers to indicate the number of jellyfish and hands to show movement of these sea creatures.

Three jellyfish, three jellyfish, 
Three jellyfish sitting on a rock. 
One fell off! Ooooooh!

Two jellyfish, two jellyfish, 
Two jellyfish sitting on a rock. 
One fell off! Oooooh!

One jellyfish, one jellyfish, 
One jellyfish sitting on a rock. 
It fell off! Oooooh!

No jellyfish, no jellyfish, 
No jellyfish sitting on a rock. 
Then one jumped on! Hooray!

One jellyfish, one jellyfish,
One jellyfish sitting on a rock.
Then another one jumped on! Hooray!

Two jellyfish, two jellyfish,
Two jellyfish sitting on a rock.
Then another one jumped on! Hooray!

Three jellyfish, three jellyfish,
Three jellyfish sitting on a rock.
Who wants an octopus cuddle?

Midi:  
YouTube:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4RdgzbZZXI

We all like a cuddle but there are limits! Encourage children to make up more verses about animals they would not like to cuddle.

1. Move hands like the sea. Join thumbs so eight fingers wiggle like tentacles on toes, knees and nose. Put hands to the face and make a loud sneeze. Cuddle self.
2. Thumb and forefingers open and close like crocodile jaws. Then as above.
Under the sea there’s an octopus,
An octopus, an octopus,
And under the sea that kind octopus,
Wants to give you an octopus cuddle.
It’s after your toes, it’s after your knees,
It’s after your nose with a wigglely ease;
But just in time comes a great big sneeze...
ATCHOO!
HOORAY! IT’S WIGGLED AWAY,
For we don’t want an octopus cuddle,
No, we don’t want an octopus cuddle!

Down in the swamp lives a crocodile,
A crocodile, a crocodile,
And down in the swamp that kind crocodile,
Wants to give you a crocodile cuddle.
It’s after your toes, it’s after your knees,
It’s after your nose with a snippety ease;
But just in time comes a great big sneeze...
ATCHOO!
HOORAY! IT’S WADDLED AWAY,
For we don’t want a crocodile cuddle,
No, we don’t want a crocodile cuddle!

Up in a gum tree sits a koala bear,
A koala bear, a koala bear,
And in the gum tree that kind koala bear,
Wants to give you a koala bear cuddle.
It’s after your toes, it’s after your knees,
It’s after your nose with a snufflely ease;
But all at once comes the teeniest sneeze...

ATCHOO!

HOORAY! IT'S STILL HERE,

For we all want a koala bear cuddle,

Yes, we all want a koala bear cuddle!

Return to the ‘Singing games for children’ home