

# Gobble! Gobble! Gobble!

*illustrated book/CD for children*

Simon Mayor *and* Hilary James - book/CD reviews

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## Teach Nursery Magazine

Any early years educator knows that the holy grail of music resources is a sing along CD that is lively and repetitive enough to get everyone in the room happily joining in...but musically interesting, too, and performed in such a way that adults in the vicinity can bear hearing it for 17 straight repeats.

Gobble! Gobble! Gobble! is just one song - but it is so brilliantly composed and presented that it's worth a whole disc of 'Children's Favourite Nursery Rhymes' three times over.

For a start, you can read along, enjoying Hilary James' kooky illustrations; there are actions, too, clearly explained at the back of the book; and you even get the music, with ukulele chords.

The verses are complicated and gloriously silly; the chorus is simple to pick up and a joy to sing. All in all, a thoroughly satisfying package!

## Sweet Craftiness

My 2 and a half year old wanted to open the book straight away due to the quirky looking turkey on the front cover (pictured below). I really liked the drawing style of the illustrator and because of the drawing style it would be easy to distinguish other books by the illustrator. The drawings have a rough and edgy feel which somehow make the story feel more like the good old fashioned books as opposed to the ones that use computerised graphics.

A nice little touch to the book was the place to write the name and this will be a great feature when this book becomes a treasured hand-me-down.

On to the story plot; if you are looking for a deep and meaningful book for your child then this isn't it (and let's face it what 2 and a half year old wants a deep and meaningful book), but if however you are looking for something with a comical and light-hearted feel then this book is for you. The whole

book revolves around a humorous sing-songy rhyme about funny scenarios involving turkeys. None of these scenarios would ever happen in real life but the book provokes the child to imagine how funny these encounters would be if they did happen. Giggles galore!

The poor turkeys do have to encounter some negative press in the book with their dim-witted portrayal but this all adds to the humour element. The repetitive words and rhyme make children want to join in and become part of the book, which is a great key in involving them in the plot of the story.

Further to this, the book comes with a CD featuring the 'Gobble! Gobble! Gobble!' song. My son loved this song! I imagined being able to turn the page to accompany the beat of the music but the lovely mandolin music went far too fast for this. So I would suggest maybe listening to this beautiful CD first and then you will be familiar with the melody in which the book is aimed to be sung

with and you can slow it down a bit so that you can progress through the book with fervour and style.

Overall, this books contains everything that will intrigue little ones; farm animals, rhyme, comical situations and repetition. The size and amount of text is just right as their attention span is held for just the right amount before they want to turn the page.

If I had any criticism of the book, it would be only the fact that I don't like where the CD is placed. Because it is placed as a focal point on the front page to illustrate that the book comes with a CD, my son instantly wanted to pull it off resulting in the front cover ripping slightly. So I would make the suggestion that perhaps the CD be moved to the back away from eager little hands.

Overall, this book is most definitely a winner in the Sweet Craftiness household.

Rating 4/5

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## Parents In Touch

Children will have great fun following the story of a parrot who loves to say things twice and this is a super read aloud story for children to join in with. The stories are full of puns - and don't miss those in the pictures, either.

An entertaining storyline and brightly coloured illustrations make this a fun story in itself, but the addition of the sing-along CD lifts this book and gives an additional dimension. Sheet music is included so children can play and sing along. The ukelele music is great fun too. These books are great value and make excellent use of the benefits of singing for extending vocabulary and the enjoyment of reading. Hilary James and Simon Mayor have a super music website for children at <http://www.childrensmusic.co.uk/>