

### Who will be interviewed, and about what?

Both adults and children may be used as informants for this project. Adults interviewed could be parents or grandparents, or any adult regularly involved with children such as teachers or child-care workers. Adults would be asked about the folkloric material which they use with their own children or the children they are concerned with; children would be asked about material which adults use with them. In every case, the key information sought involves the nature of the material, the persons using it and the persons to whom it is addressed, and the context or situation in which it is used. In other words; what, who, where, when and why!

### Age of the "children" in this project

For the purposes of this project, "children" range from birth to and including adolescence. Clearly some categories of folklore as listed above will apply more to one age-group than another. Thus lullabies will concern mainly infants, whereas tales or "modern legends" will probably concern older children and adolescents.

If children are interviewed about folklore which adults use with them, they must be interviewed about adult folklore used now, not, for example, what adolescents remember from their childhood. For the purposes of this project, recollection is OUT!

### What aspects of folklore for children can any one collector obtain?

The collector may choose to interview informants about as many types of folklore as possible, or may wish to select one type only, such as lullabies, legends or games - depending on the collector's or supervisors's interests. You may also wish to collect folklore of many types about one topic, such as sex-roles or obedience, or collect all types of folklore for children in one language only.

Some adults may use very little folklore to children, and others may use a great deal. Almost everyone uses some, and most people can be prompted with examples to realise that they use far more than they may think at first. Both well-educated and illiterate adults may be excellent informants.

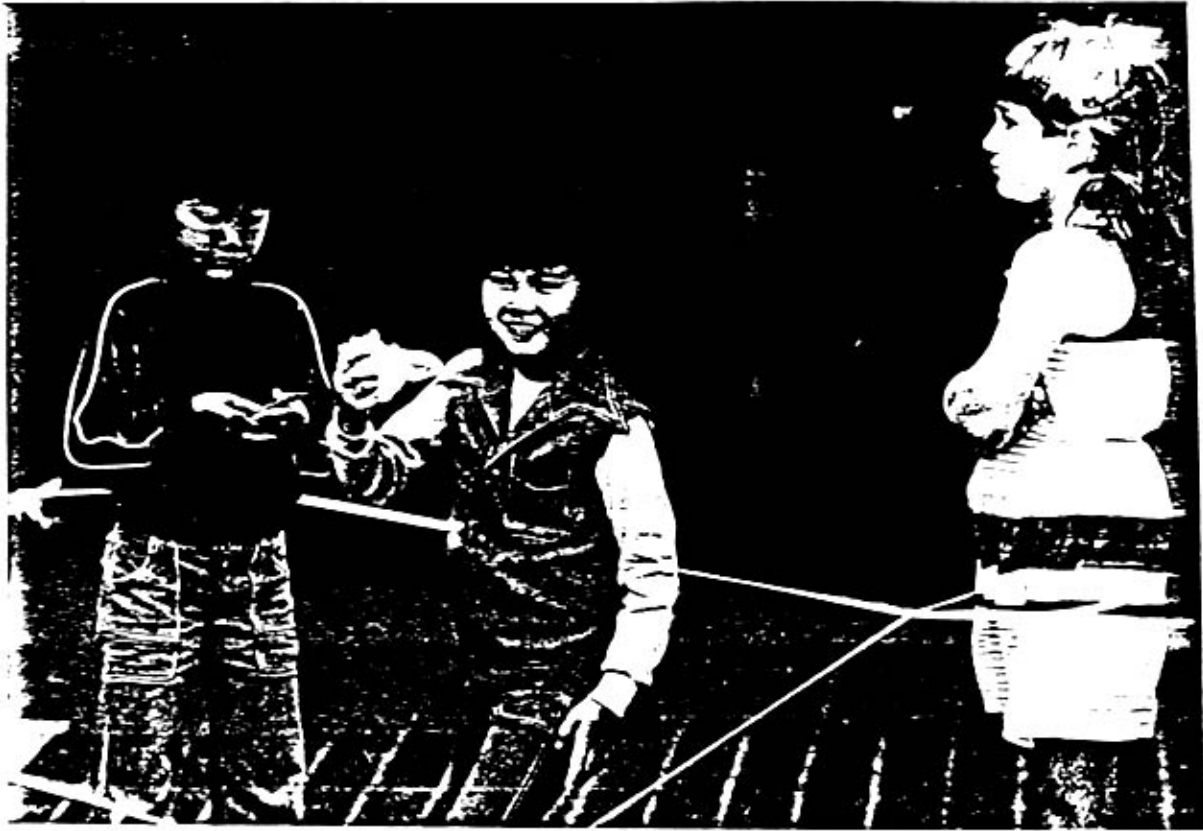
### Languages to be collected

The Australian Folklore for Children Project aims to collect folklore currently used by adults with children in English and other Australian community languages. A "community language" is defined here as any language in regular use within the Australian community, and in present-day Australian society this involves almost every major world language and a number of dialects. All are of great interest to this project.

### A brief reference list

- Bettelheim, Bruno. The Uses of Enchantment: The Meaning and Importance of Fairytales, 1976 London: Thames & Hudson.
- Brunvand, J.H. Folklore: A Study and Research Guide, 1976 New York: St Martin's Press.
- \* Davey, Gwenda. 'The Functions of Folklore', 1983. Extracts from M.Ed. thesis, Folklore and the enculturation of young immigrant children in Melbourne.
- Goldstein, Kenneth, S. A Guide for Field Workers in Folklore, 1974 Detroit: Gale Research Co. (for American Folklore Society).
- \* Goldstein, Kenneth, S. 'The telling of non-traditional tales to children: an ethnographic report from a northwest Philadelphia neighbourhood', 1975, Keystone Folklore, Vol.20, No.3.
- Keesing, Nancy. Lily on the Dustbin: Slang of Australian Women and Families, 1982 Ringwood, Vic.: Penguin (Australia).
- Opie, Iona & Peter. The Oxford Nursery Rhyme Book, 1975 London: O.U.P.

\* Reprints can be obtained from Gwenda Davey.



Elastics at Collingwood Education Centre,  
Melbourne (see ACFN No.2). Photo Len Lamb  
"The Age" 24-3-84. Used with permission.

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#  
# Gwenda Davey's M.Ed. thesis Folklore #  
# and the enculturation of young #  
# immigrant children in Melbourne #  
# (Monash 1983) is held in the main and #  
# Education Faculty libraries at Monash #  
# and in the library at Melbourne #  
# C.A.E., Institute of Early Childhood #  
# Development. #  
# #  
#####

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#  
# Have you any home-made playthings? #  
# The Australian Children's Folklore #  
# Collection at I.E.C.D. will be holding #  
# an exhibition shortly of home-made #  
# playthings by and for children: paper #  
# dolls, apple dolls, sock and newspaper #  
# footballs, shanghis, etc. #  
# #  
# If you can contribute to this #  
# exhibition, please send items to the #  
# editors of the A.C.F.N - or, if the #  
# material is too awkward or delicate to #  
# post, let us know where we can pick it #  
# up. #  
# #  
# A catalogue of the exhibition will be #  
# made available to all A.C.F.N. #  
# subscribers. #  
# #  
# #  
#####



Data sheet

Folklore for children: single item

Informant (mother, father, child, other) .....

Language spoken to child .....

Age of child (years, months or weeks as appropriate) .....

Sex of child .....

Location (suburb or town and State) .....

Date of interview .....

Title of item (if any) .....

Type of item (e.g. song, game, rhyme, story, saying etc.) .....

Who would normally play or tell this item? .....

When and where and how often would item normally be used? .....

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From whom did informant learn item? .....

Why does informant think he or she uses item? .....

.....

Words of item (Ask informant to write out in full or dictate to you.  
Continue on back of sheet as necessary. If item is not in English, add  
translation).