

SINGING

Enjoy this song as a singing game. Children begin in a standing circle. One who is it walks around the outside of the circle singing the first half of each phrase, echoed by all children. During the last phrase, the person who is it taps another child (perhaps on the word *catch*) and runs around the circle hoping to reach the place vacated by the child who is now chasing him/her without being tagged. Usually the one who loses the race is "It," but the rules can be altered to give as many people turns as possible.

This is an excellent song for solo singing where children sing to get the game going and don't really feel self-conscious in singing alone.

PLAYING

Set up tonebars or resonator bells in a pentatonic scale in this order:

D

E

G

A

B

After children have learned the melody well in the singing game, they will be able to play the melody beginning on G. For variety, children could sing the solo part, and a melody instrument could echo. Or one instrument, such as a glockenspiel, could play the solo part, echoed by another instrument, such as a xylophone. The same could be done by non-pitched instruments alone for rhythmic enjoyment or along with melody instruments.

Notice that the pentatonic scale is on the black keys of the piano. Have someone play the melody on the piano beginning on G-flat rather than G.

CREATING

Personalize this game by substituting the name of children for "Charlie." Children might also like to think of other things that could be caught instead of a big fish. See CURRICULUM INTEGRATION for other possibilities.

LISTENING

Have children observe the number of repeated tones in the first measure of each phrase. The whole measure is one pitch: G, or *Do*, with the rhythm pattern varying to fit the words in each line.

Can children hear how this song resembles *If You're Happy* which also has many repeated tones? Have they heard other songs with many repeated tones? (*Old Brass Wagon*)

CURRICULUM INTEGRATION

Find books or other sources about ocean life. What kinds of fish qualify as "big fish?"