

## LES CHANSONS ET LES COMPTINES

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Here in France a lot of the songs

the children sing have been around for generations. It's quite cute actually - my daughter is now singing songs that my grandmother sang with me, which have been hidden somewhere in a forgotten part of my brain and which I am now remembering.

So I have picked up a couple of CDs and we listen to them loads and have a bit of a dance-off (though the CDs we have are fun, I have not as of yet found a CD that is outstanding and that I could recommend). I was being a bit slow on the uptake and it is only after a while that I started to tune in and realise that some of the songs are not really politically correct in the world of 2009...

For example, I am not sure how appropriate it is for a 3-year-old to sing "I have really good tobacco, but you're not going to get any"!!! I mean, kids and tobacco don't really mix and if they did, sharing with their friends would be a good thing to encourage. Take another song: "Ne pleur pas Jeanette". This is the story of a girl who is crying because someone is going to marry her off to a man not of her choosing. She wants a dude called Pierre, who is currently in prison. To stop her from having Pierre she is told that he is going to be hanged. In another song a girl is happily skipping around the Lorraine in her clogs when some guys come up to her and tell her that she is really ugly.

I guess in old-school France political correctness was not high on the agenda.... Don't get me wrong, there are a lot of sweet, cute and innocent songs out there, but it is quite funny to see some very incorrect ones slipping through the radar in our very correct world. I'd love to hear what kids are singing in other countries!

- Emilie

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