



Thula mama thula

Liz Brouckaert
isiXhosa

21. THULA MAMA THULA: Xhosa lullaby



I - mfe- ne mam' i- mfe- ne yam-thaba-th'um ntwana



wa- su - ke wa-kha- la wa - thi i - yo

Verse 1:

Imfene mam' imfene

yamthabath' umntwana

Wasuke wakhala wathi iyo x2

Chorus:

Khawuthule mama thula

thula mama thula

Thula mama thula

thula yithi tu x2

Verse 2:

Yamthabath' umntwana

yambeka egxeni

Wasuke wakhala wathi iyo x2

*Phinda i-chorus

This is one of sixty children's songs in isiXhosa, isiZulu, English and Afrikaans (with one song in Sesotho) in a book called 'Songs Sung by South African Children' (1990, 1992 and 2002) published by Grassroots Adult Education and Training Trust.

Liz Brouckaert, the researcher, was commissioned to source and document local songs and make them accessible to teachers who were not specialist music educators. She looked for songs that children preferred to sing. What emerged time and again was that children really like singing about taboo subjects.

She collected the songs mainly in Cape Town over a period of 18 months, and then worked with friends to make audio recordings of the songs.

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Thula mama thula

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Language: isiXhosa



This song is traditionally a lullaby but in recent years its tune was used in a political song with different words. Click here to download and listen to a recording of this song: <http://www.saide.org.za/resources/ASP/21> Thula mama thula.wma.

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