

Tune in, drop out - and bond with your kids

My four-year-old daughter lowers her hands into a namaste-like greeting while standing on one leg. My two-year-old son is rolling around on the floor trying to arch his back into a crab pose. Meanwhile, I'm sitting cross-legged on the floor humming myself into a trance.

Our mission is to achieve "buloo" - a state of supreme happiness that will allow us to float up into the sky and drift in the wind in a state of Zen-like bliss. To do so, we all have to complete a set of "yogo" moves. I don't think I've tried anything like this since my first year at university.

But if you have young children you had better brush up on your yogo fast as it's a key component of CBeebies' great new hope - Waybuloo (Tuesday and Thursday at 9.10am). Starting this week on the BBC's pre-school channel, it is already being billed as "the new Teletubbies", with its four doe-eyed "Piplings" - De Li, Lau Lau, Nok Tok and Yojojo - who live in a magical land of primary colours, skipping children and butterflies called Nara. Each character represents a different "emotion", including love, wisdom, happiness and harmony, and whenever their large garden clock, which is a hypnotic composite of sundial, wind chime and crystals, starts to sound they must stop everything and prepare for a session of yogo, which, to the untrained eye, makes its participants look as if they've just taken

a heavy hit on the bong and are now preparing themselves for a round of yogic flying.

The Daily Mail isn't amused, of course: "Mothers and fathers may be forgiven for thinking they have travelled back to the late 1960s when they sit down with their children to watch Waybuloo. The series . . . is said to be imbued with a 'hippy' philosophy."

Drug-taking innuendo has been rife in children's programming ever since Mr Rusty first invited Dougal to take a "trip" on his magic roundabout more than 40 years ago. Waybuloo certainly maintains this tradition, but given what's going on in the adult world nowadays, I'm mighty tempted to stay with the Piplings in Nara for as long as I can.

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