Scene 1

(As intro music plays (CD track 8) the lights come up on a side stage, which is made to look like the reception/waiting area of an office – see staging suggestions/scenery. We see an office door on which a notice is attached, reading ‘INTERVIEW IN PROGRESS – DO NOT DISTURB’. Four ‘interviewees’, smartly dressed and carrying briefcases, nervously enter and sit on four chairs. After an awkward silence one speaks....)

**Interviewee 1** So, are you guys feeling as nervous as you look?

**Interviewee 2** Well, if I look like I’m about to pass out with fear, then yes!

**Interviewee 3** Me too. This is my first ever job interview and my stomach's doing somersaults! I don’t think I’m going to keep my breakfast down!

**Interviewee 4** Well I couldn’t even manage breakfast. It’s my first interview too and I’m absolutely dreading it!

**Interviewee 2** I’m not ready for the world of work! It doesn’t seem five minutes since I was at school, learning how to read and write.

**Interviewee 3** And how to tie shoelaces!

**Interviewee 4** And how to eat with a knife and fork!

**Interviewee 1** Yet here we are, all grown up. It’s in situations like this when I wish I could just go back in time, to when life was much simpler.

**Int. 2, 3 & 4** (sighing) Aaaah! Just imagine........

**Song** *Do You Recall?*  (CD track 1 & 9, lyrics p23)

(Whole cast)

**Interviewee 4** In some ways your first interview is like your first day at school.

**Interviewee 3** I don’t remember going to the loo five times before my first day at school! This is far worse!

**Interviewee 2** Actually, when you think about it, there are quite a few similarities; new shoes, new haircut, new bag.

**Interviewee 1** Your mum making sure you’ve brushed your teeth, and checking you’ve got a hanky in your pocket.....

(All four reach into a jacket pocket and pull out a hanky.)

**All** (smiling) Good old mum!
(The action moves to the main stage, where a father and son sit at the breakfast table – see p30. Dad reads the paper while the son eats his cereal, his school bag at his feet.)

**Dad** Charlie, where’s your mum?

**Charlie** She’s getting Milly ready for school, Dad.

**Dad** Oh yes, it’s your little sister’s first day! I hope she’s feeling OK.

**Charlie** Well, they’d better hurry up or we’re going to be late. *(shouting)* GET A MOVE ON! IT’S TWENTY TO NINE!

**Voice from off-stage** *(sobbing)* But I’m scared! Can’t we wait ’til tomorrow?

**Dad** Oh, come on. Everything’s going to be fine. It’s a lovely school.

**Voice** But what if the other children are horrid?

**Dad** Don’t worry. They’re all in the same boat. I promise it’ll be fine.

**Voice** But what if the teachers are nasty? What if they shout?

**Charlie** Mrs Evans is a lovely lady. She was my teacher when I started.

**Voice** But I’m just not ready! I think we should wait until next year! Oh please can we wait until next year? Please, please, please, please!

**Charlie** It’ll be fine. I’ll be there. I’m in the top class this year so I can make sure nothing bad happens. Come on!

*(Milly enters in her new school uniform, carrying her bag, and it quickly becomes clear that it isn’t her, but her mother whose voice we’ve heard!)*

**Milly** Oh do hurry up, Mummy! I can’t be late on my first day at school!

**Mum** *(still off-stage)* No! Shan’t!

**All** COME ON!

*(Mum enters, sobbing into a hanky.)*

**Mum** But she’s so little! Look at her. She should be with me at home, where I can take care of her!

**Milly** Mummy!

**Mum** But what if your hair’s not right? What if the other girls have theirs tied back, or in pig tails? They’ll laugh at you!

**Charlie** No they won’t! They’re four years old! They won’t even notice!
Mum But what if someone steals your packed lunch? You’ll be hungry!

Dad They won’t steal her packed lunch! There’ll be lots of people making sure she’s got everything she needs, and that she doesn’t come to any harm.

Mum But what if she gets lost? That school is such a big place for little girls!

Milly Mummy, I’ve visited school twice now, and I know how to find my way around. I promise I’ll be fine.

Mum But what if….

Charlie Mum!

Mum But …. 

Dad Just go!

(Charlie picks up his bag and, with the help of Milly and Dad, drags Mum off stage. Dad returns alone.)

Dad (calling after them) Have a lovely day! See you at tea time!

(Dad sits down and picks up his paper. Mum comes back on, looking a lot happier. Charlie and Milly follow her, looking annoyed.)

Mum The car’s got a flat battery. There’s no way we’ll make it in time now. She’ll have to start school tomorrow!

Milly But it’s a five minute walk! We’ll get there if we hurry.

(Milly and Charlie exit. Mum hangs back, sulking.)

Dad Cheer up, Love. Just think, for the first time in years, you’re going to have the whole day to yourself! And you know what that means….leisurely lunches with your friends, a chance to enjoy a bit of shopping, and best of all……

Mum (perking up) Day-time telly! (shouting to the children) Will you two hurry up! We’re going to be late!

(Leaving Dad smiling, she hurries off as intro music plays (CD track 10). Fade the music as all stand and Mum, Milly and Charlie return to the stage for the next song.)

Song My First Day At School (CD track 2 & 11, lyrics p24) 
(Whole cast led by the family)

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