Music and Singing

Music is critical to the development of language and listening skills. By participating in music activities, your child can expand their vocabulary and improve their attention span, concentration, and memory. Music can also make routine activities, such as cleaning up, more enjoyable. Here are some tips for teaching and enjoying music with your child:

- Play all kinds of music: classical, pop, country, jazz, music from other cultures, etc.
- Sing together — any time or anywhere.
- Make homemade instruments from recycled materials. There are a lot of fun, free ideas on the internet.
- Encourage your child to move to the music. Allow them to do this in their own way.
- Teach your child songs that you remember from your childhood.
- Make a game of listening to and repeating words, rhythms or sounds. Listening will develop the ability to hear the sounds and patterns in letters and words.

Your local public library has collections of music that you can check out. Making music a part of your home life will create a fun learning environment.

More Books about Music and Singing...

- *M is for Music*, by Kathleen Krull
- *There Were Ten in the Bed*, by Susan Chapman Calitri
- *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*, by Annie Kubler
- *Itsy Bitsy Spider*, by Iza Trapani
- *Rin, Rin, Rin/Do, Re, Mi*, by Jose Luis Orozco
- *Max Found Two Sticks*, by Brain Pinkney

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Featured Book

**Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes**, by Eric Litwin

Kids will love the catchy tune that Pete sings as he strolls down the street. This story combines colors, repetition, prediction, and cause and effect in a catchy tune to teach basic preschool skills.

This is the first in the series about Pete’s adventures.

There is a free downloadable CD version of this story from this link—
www.harpercollinschildrens.com/feature/petethecat/
Sing Silly Songs

Row, Row, Row Your Boat
Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the stream.
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Life is but a dream.

Now make up new words to the song...

Row, row, row your car...

Or make up silly words...
Tow, tow, tow my goat...

Nonsense words...
Bow, bow, bow my doat...

Sing about where you are going or what you are doing...

Wash, wash, wash my hands...
Walk, walk, walk to school...

More fun with Pete the Cat...

Homemade instruments...

- Drum — coffee can with lid or oatmeal tub
- Maracas (shakers) — water bottles or juice cans filled about 1/3 full with rice or dry beans. Seal the top with paper and tape.
- Tambourine — seal two aluminum pie pans or sturdy paper plates together with duct tape, after putting a small handful of dry beans inside.
- Rhythm sticks — hit two wooden spoons or pencils together

Music and Movement... Put some rhythm into the words of Pete’s song. Bounce, clap, tap, stomp, drum, jump, or snap. Give each part of the word a beat to help your child learn how to break words into syllables.

Tech time... At home or at the library, go online to http://ele.fredrogerscenter.org/
In the Activities section there are a lot of song videos that you can watch and sing along with.

Action Song
Clap, clap, clap your hands,
Clap your hands together.
Clap, clap, clap your hands,
Clap your hands together.

Stamp, stamp, stamp your feet,
Stamp your feet together.
Stamp, stamp, stamp your feet,
Stamp your feet together.

Nod, nod, nod your head,
Nod your heads together.
Nod, nod, nod your head,
Nod your heads together.

What your library can do for you...
Check at your library to see if they have music and movement activities for your child.

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