

## Did you know...



A common reason grown-ups don't sing with children is that they don't think they have a good singing voice. But young children don't really know a good singing voice from a bad one; they just want you to sing with them!

Singing with your child will help develop phonological awareness, or the ability to hear the sounds in words. Recognizing when words rhyme and hearing the beginning sounds of words are things that help children learn to read later on.

For more information about how you can help develop phonological awareness visit:  
[www.phonologicalawareness.org](http://www.phonologicalawareness.org)

## Here's how...



- ✦ Add actions, such as clapping or bouncing, as you sing a song or say a poem.
- ✦ Say rhymes and sing songs in the language most comfortable for you.
- ✦ Play CDs as you're traveling in the car and sing along to them.
- ✦ Sing songs with your child every day. Songs break words into syllables and are a fun way to learn about word sounds. In most songs, each syllable in a word gets a different note. Clap each syllable as you sing it.

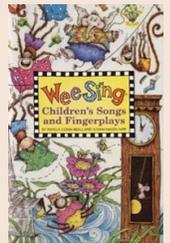
Twink-le    twink-le    lit-tle    star,

How    I    won-der    what    you    are.

## Read



### **Wee Sing: The Best of Wee Sing, by Pamela Conn Beal and Susan Nipp**



This special book and music CD of popular children's songs will help parents and caregivers learn lots of songs to sing with their children. Whether you're singing along with the CD or singing from memory, singing with your young child every day will help her develop important skills that she will need when it is time to learn to read.

Co-author Susan Hagen Nipp lives in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. In addition to producing many other Wee Sing CDs, she wrote *Mudgy and Millie*, a book about a mouse and a moose who play hide and seek around Coeur d'Alene.

## Choosing Books

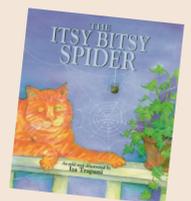


### **Other song books...**

*Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*, by Annie Kubler

*Itsy Bitsy Spider*, by Iza Trapani

*Row, Row, Row Your Boat*, by David Ellwand



*Wheels on the Bus*, by Raffi

*If You're Happy and You Know It*, by James Warhola

*You Are My Sunshine*, by Jimmie Davis



## Talk



### Make homemade instruments...

- Drum — coffee can with lid or oatmeal tub
- Maracas (shakers) — metal measuring spoons
- Pots and pans that can be hit with a wooden spoon
- Rhythm sticks — hit two wooden spoons together

## Write



A fun activity for developing writing skills is to play music while your child is scribbling or drawing. Give your child a crayon and paper and show them different types of lines that can be drawn— wavy, straight, dotted, etc. Explain that they can draw or scribble as they listen to the music. Use words like soft and loud, fast and slow, and encourage them to draw how the music makes them feel. This helps your child think about and learn to control their drawing. Have fun with different types of music!

## Play



### This Little Pig Went To Market

*(wiggle each toe on your child's foot as you say this rhyme)*

This little pig went to market,

This little pig stayed home,

This little pig had roast beef,

This little pig had none,

And this little pig cried, “Wee-wee-wee”

All the way home.



## Sing



### Mary Had a Little Lamb

Mary had a little lamb,  
Little lamb, little lamb,  
Mary had a little lamb,  
Its fleece was white as snow.

Everywhere that Mary went,

Mary went, Mary went,

Everywhere that Mary went,

The lamb was sure to go.

## At your library...



Check at your library for CDs and DVDs of children's songs. You can find special holiday music or songs you can sing year-round!