

Did you know...



Children love to sing, and when they play with words, as well as the smaller sounds in words, they are developing an early literacy skill called **phonological awareness**. Recognizing when words rhyme and hearing the beginning sounds of words are things that help children learn to read later on.

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! It is helpful to slow songs down when you're singing with children so they can hear the letter sounds and words more clearly.



Here's how...



- ✦ Make up your own nonsense words and silly songs.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Listen to music CDs as you travel in the car. Play a variety of music, as well as traditional children's songs.

Read



You Are My Sunshine, *illustrations by* **Caroline Jayne Church**



Toddlers and their teddy bears enjoy this classic song.

Hear the tune at <https://bussongs.com/songs/you-are-my-sunshine>.

Choosing Books



Books that Rock:

Jazz Baby, by Lisa Wheeler

One Love, by Cedella Marley

Baby Loves to Rock! by Wednesday Kirwin

Music Is..., by Brandon Stusoy

Music (Amazing Me!), by Carol Thompson

Sing, talk, read, write, and play over the summer!

Visit your local public library to borrow some books, music CDs, and more. Most libraries offer storytimes and provide a place to meet other parents and let your child play. Library programs are free! Be sure to sign up for summer reading, where prizes can be earned for reading to your child.

This year's theme is

LIBRARIES™
★ ROCK! ★

Talk



Encourage your toddler to talk to her doll or teddy bear throughout the day. “Here’s a book. Can you read the book to Teddy?” “Let’s help Teddy get ready for bed. Can you tell him how to brush his teeth?” This lets your child practice language, helping her organize her thoughts into steps and sequences, and giving her the opportunity to use different words.

Ready to Write



Here’s a fun activity that will strengthen those little hand and finger muscles needed to hold a pencil:

Fill a roasting pan or casserole dish with about a half inch of baking soda. Put about a half cup of vinegar in a small bowl or container. Add a drop or two of food coloring. Give your child a turkey baster or plastic medicine dropper that has a squeeze top. Let him pipe the vinegar from the bowl and squeeze it into the pan with the baking soda and watch what happens!

For more fun, add another bowl of vinegar in a different color, and see what happens when the colors mix in the baking soda.



Play



Make more homemade instruments with your child and play along with your favorite songs:

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: Put a small handful of dry beans inside two aluminum pie pans or sturdy paper plates. Seal together with duct tape and shake.

Rhythm sticks: Hit two wooden spoons or pencils together.

Sing



Shake My Sillies Out

~ by Raffi

(Match actions to words)

I’ve got to shake, shake, shake my sillies out.
Shake, shake, shake my sillies out.
Shake, shake, shake my sillies out,
Wiggle the waggles away.

I’ve got to clap, clap, clap my crazies out.
Clap, clap, clap my crazies out.
Clap, clap, clap my crazies out,
Wiggle the waggles away.

Additional verses:

Jump my jiggles out...

Yawn my sleepies out...



Hear song at

<https://tinyurl.com/raffi-shake-sillies-out>

At your library...



Be sure to visit your public library this summer to check out great board books and music. Some libraries offer special programs just for babies and toddlers, and the library is a great place to meet other parents of young children.

Libraries rock!