

## Did you know...



Singing will help your child be able to hear and work with the sounds in spoken language. This is called phonological awareness. Some words rhyme, and some words begin with the same sound. Sentences are made up of words, and words can be broken down into smaller parts. Singing naturally breaks words into syllables and is a fun way to learn about word sounds.

*Research shows that children who have phonological awareness tend to have an easier time learning to read.*

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

## Here's how...



- ✦ Sing nursery rhymes so children can hear the different sounds in words. There are many videos on the internet that can teach you how to sing rhymes or that your child can sing along with.
- ✦ Practice singing and rhyming at home, in the car, while you play, and during "wait" times in lines or at the doctor's office. Use the routines during your day to do this- bath time, driving to the grocery store, washing hands, etc.
- ✦ Clap along to the rhythms in songs so children hear the syllables in words. Here is an example:

Twink-le      twink-le      lit-tle      star,



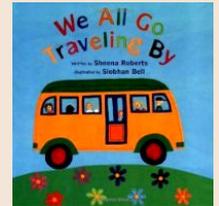
How      I      won-der      what      you      are.



## Read



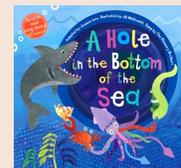
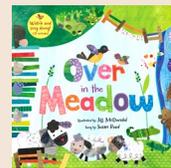
### ***We All Go Traveling By*, by Sheena Roberts**



Your child will enjoy traveling with the vehicles in this sing-along book.

The colorful art will capture their attention and the vehicle sounds are fun to make. The story builds on itself until the children arrive at school for a new day.

<http://www.barefootbooks.com/kids/animated-videos/> **Listen!**



## Choose Books



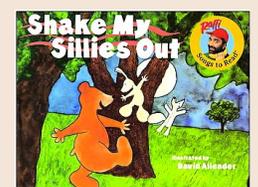
### **More books to sing-along with...**

- ✦ *Row Row Row Your Boat*, by Iza Trapani
- ✦ *May There Always Be Sunshine*, by Jim Gill
- ✦ *The Lady with the Alligator Purse*, by Mary Ann Hoberman



- ✦ *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*, by Pam Adams
- ✦ *Shake My Sillies Out*, by Raffi

- ✦ *Miss Mary Mack: A Hand Clapping Rhyme*, by Mary Ann Hoberman



## Play



### 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.

## Write



Using nursery rhymes and songs, leave out the last rhyming word in each phrase: Twinkle, twinkle, little star, How I wonder what you \_\_\_\_ (are). Have your child fill in the missing rhyme by saying it or writing it down.

## Sing



### 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...  
Wash, wash, wash your hands...  
[http://wiki.kcls.org/index.php/  
Row,\\_Row,\\_Row\\_Your\\_Boat](http://wiki.kcls.org/index.php/Row,_Row,_Row_Your_Boat)



## Talk



### Recognizing Reading Problems

By: *Reading Rockets* (2007)

Learning to read is a challenge for many kids, but most can become good readers if they get the right help. Parents have an important job in recognizing when a child is struggling and knowing how to find help.

#### What to look for:

- Difficulty rhyming
- Difficulty hearing individual sounds
- Difficulty following directions
- Difficulty re-telling a story
- Struggles to sound out most words
- Avoids reading aloud

**If you think your kindergartner is struggling with learning to read, talk to her teacher sooner rather than later. The school can provide free support if needed!**

## 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!