



Did you know...



Music is a great tool for the development of language and listening skills. By participating in music activities, your child can expand his or her vocabulary and improve his or her attention span, concentration, and memory.

Singing helps children develop phonological awareness, which is the ability to hear the smallest sounds in letters and words. When you sing, syllables are broken apart and children can hear letter sounds and rhymes clearly.

You don't have to be a great singer to sing with your child. If you don't know melodies or words of familiar children's songs, there are a lot of websites you can refer to. You can also check out CDs and songbooks from your local library.



Here's how...

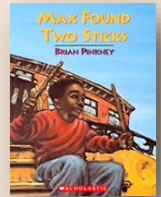


- ✦ Play CDs in the car while you are driving around the community.
- ✦ Make up silly songs as you go through your day, such as, "If you're hungry and you know it, eat a snack."
- ✦ Find out what songs your child is learning in school and sing them around the house. Many songs can be found on YouTube if you don't know the tune.
- ✦ Sing in the language that is most comfortable for you.
- ✦ Go to free local family-style concerts and enjoy some music together.

Read



Max Found Two Sticks, by Brian Pinkney



Max picks up two twigs and begins tapping out the rhythms of everything he sees and hears around him. Then, when a marching band rounds Max's corner, something wonderful happens.

Brian Pinkney is the 2018 summer reading artist. Look for his art on posters and signs at your library.

Choose Books



Books that Rock:

Singing in the Rain, by Tim Hopgood

88 Instruments, by Chris Barton

Pete the Cat: Rockin' in My School Shoes, by Eric Litwin

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

Studies show that children who do not continue reading routines over the summer can lose many of the skills they developed during the school year. Look for programs at your library or in the community that will be fun and provide opportunities for your kindergartner to learn.

Be sure to sign up for summer reading at the library, where prizes can be earned for reading with your child. Most libraries offer storytimes, and you can meet other parents and let your child play.

This year's theme is

**LIBRARIES™
★ ROCK! ★**

Talk



As you read to your child, talk about what is happening in the pictures. Use phrases such as “I notice...” and “I wonder...” and ask your child what she notices and wonders as well. “I notice that Max’s grandpa is using a bucket in this picture, and on the next page, Max is using the bucket for a drum.”

Write



If holding or writing with a pencil is still challenging for your kindergartener, try some of these activities to help practice a “tripod” hold (thumb on one side, second two fingers on other side):



- Pick up small objects with tweezers
- Tear strips of paper into tiny squares
- Clip clothespins onto cardboard
- Use scissors to cut shapes from scrap paper

Play



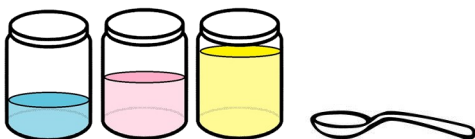
Make a water xylophone

You need at least three glass jars that can hold up to 2 cups of liquid.

Fill the first jar with $\frac{1}{3}$ cup water, the second with $\frac{2}{3}$ cups water, and the third with 1 cup of water. Use a spoon to lightly tap each jar and hear the different sounds the jars make.

More options:

- Use food coloring to color the water in each jar a different color.
- Use additional jars of water, increasing each by $\frac{1}{3}$ cup more water than the previous jar.



Sing



Old MacDonald Had a Band

(Tune of “Old MacDonald Had a Farm”)

Old MacDonald had a band, E-I-E-I-O.

And in that band there was a flute, E-I-E-I-O.

With a tweet, tweet, here
and a tweet, tweet, there.

Here a tweet, there a tweet,
everywhere a tweet, tweet.

Old MacDonald had a band, E-I-E-I-O.

Repeat with other instruments:

... drum... boom...

... triangle... ding...

...guitar... strum...

... violin... rin...

... tambourine... tinkle...

... maracas... rattle...

Be creative!



At your library...



Sign your child up for the library’s summer reading program, where your family can attend fun programs, check out books and music, and earn prizes for reading. Libraries rock!