

## 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 their vocabulary and improve their 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.

For more information about how you can help develop phonological awareness visit:

[phonologicalawareness.org](http://phonologicalawareness.org)

## Here's how...

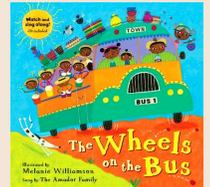


- ❖ Sing together — anytime or anywhere.
- ❖ Encourage your child to move to the music. Allow them to do this in their own way.
- ❖ Teach your child songs that you remember from your childhood.
- ❖ Make a game of listening to and repeating words, rhythms or sounds. Listening will develop the ability to hear the sounds and patterns in letters and words.
- ❖ Make homemade instruments for your child to play as you sing or listen to music (see page 2).

## Read

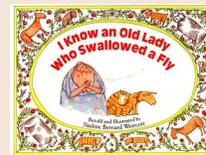


### ***The Wheels on the Bus*, illustrated by Melanie Williamson**



This traditional song is a favorite with children. This book has a twist to it because the bus is traveling through Guatemala. The colorful pictures and repeating words will have your child singing through the story.

There are many other children's songs that have been put into book form. Add a few to your home library and sing along!



## Choosing Books



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

*Five Little Speckled Frogs*, by Nikki Smith

*Down by the Bay*, by Raffi

*Ten Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*, by Eileen Cristelow

*Going to the Zoo*, by Tom Paxton

*The Lady with the Alligator Purse*, by Nadine Bernard Westcott

*We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, by Michael Rosen

*The Seals on the Bus*, by Lenny Hort



## Talk



### 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 — Put a small handful of dry beans inside two aluminum pie pans or sturdy paper plates. Seal together with duct tape and shake, shake, shake.
- Rhythm sticks — Hit two wooden spoons or pencils together.

## Sing



### The Wheels on the Bus

The wheels on the bus go 'round and 'round,  
'Round and 'round, 'round and 'round.

The wheels on the bus go 'round and 'round,  
All around the town.

*More verses:*

The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish...

The people on the bus go up and down...

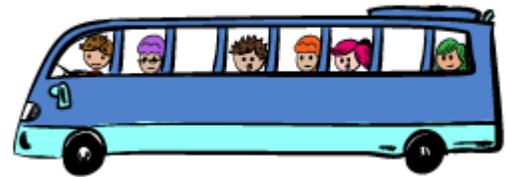
The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep...

The baby on the bus goes, "wah, wah, wah".

## Write



Keep a writing kit in your car with crayons and paper for your child to draw or write with as you drive around. It is a natural opportunity for them to make connections with the print they see around them.



## Play



### I'm a Choo-Choo Train

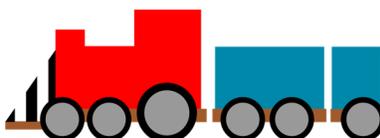
I'm a choo-choo train (bend arms at side),  
Chugging down the track.  
(move arms like train wheels)

First I go forward (move arms forward),  
Then I go back (move arms back).

Now my bell is ringing (pretend to pull bell),  
Hear my whistle blow (pretend to blow whistle).

What a lot of noise I make (cover ears),  
Everywhere I go!

[www.youtube.com/user/Birth2Six](http://www.youtube.com/user/Birth2Six)



## 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!