

## 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

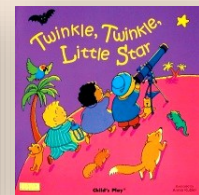
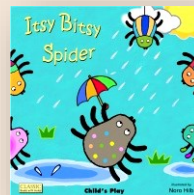


### Traditional songs

Traditional songs are those passed down over time and within cultures. They are typically well-known, they often rhyme, and though some words may change the tune is usually the same from generation to generation. Books that have traditional song lyrics are fun to share with children, as they often already know the words and can "read" along. Here are two books with some additional lyrics to familiar songs:

***Itsy Bitsy Spider***, illustrated by Nora Hilb

***Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star***, illustrated by Annie Kubler



## Choosing Books



*Five Little Speckled Frogs*, by Nikki Smith

*Down by the Bay*, by Raffi

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

*Going to the Zoo*, by Tom Paxton

*The Seals on the Bus*, by Lenny Hort

*Maria Had a Little Llama*, by Angela Dominguez

*Mary Wore Her Red Dress and Henry Wore His Green Sneakers*, by Merle Peek



## Talk



As you talk with your child throughout the day, use some interesting words to replace common ones: A sandwich can be “delicious” instead of good. A popsicle can be a “tasty treat.” Your child can help you wipe the counter until it “sparkles.” And a problem could become a “dilemma.”

## Write



Fine motor activities, such as snipping and pinching, will help your preschooler develop the little muscles needed to hold a pencil. Give your child scrap paper and safety scissors, and let her snip little pieces into a bowl or box. Then have her make a mosaic by gluing them onto a larger piece of paper.



## Play



*Make 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.

*Here is a fun action rhyme to use with your new maracas (shakers):*

### **We're Going to Shake Our Shakers**

<https://youtu.be/pyUa748xZAM>

“Birth2Six” YouTube Channel by Washington County Cooperative Library Services

## Sing



### **This Old Man**

This old man, he played one,  
He played knick knack with his thumb,  
With a knick, knack, paddy whack,  
Give the dog a bone;  
This old man came rolling home.

This old man, he played two,  
He played knick knack on my shoe,  
With a knick, knack paddy whack,  
Give the dog a bone;  
This old man came rolling home.

*Repeat with these verses:*

Three, on his knee	Eight, on my gate
Four, on the door	Nine, rise and shine
Five, jazz and jive	Ten, in my den
Six, with his sticks	Eleven, up in heaven
Seven, with a pen	Twelve, on the shelves

Hear the tune:

[www.bussongs.com/songs/  
knick\\_knack\\_paddy\\_whack.php](http://www.bussongs.com/songs/knick_knack_paddy_whack.php)

## 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!