

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...

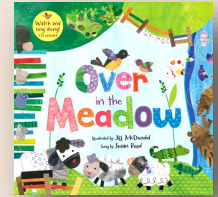


- ❖ Play CDs in the car while you are driving around the community.
- ❖ Make up silly songs as you go through your day, such as, "If you're hungry and you know it, eat a snack."
- ❖ Find out what songs your child is learning in school and sing them around the house. Many songs can be found on YouTube 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.
- ❖ Go to www.phonologicalawareness.org for activities to help your child hear letter sounds and rhymes.

Read

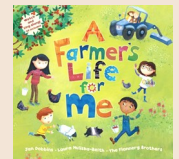
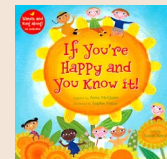


Over in the Meadow, **(traditional story),** **illustrated by** **Jill McDonald**



The text for *Over In The Meadow* is based on a traditional Southern Appalachian counting rhyme. Counting books are great for sharing with young children, and this particular version comes with a CD that makes it easy to sing along with your child.

This book is part of a collection of books with sing-along CDs.



Choose Books



More books to sing with your child...

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



Talk



When phrases in books repeat, ask your child to “read” those with you. Point to the words as you read them together.

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: 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.

Write



Fingerplays help strengthen the little muscles children need in order to learn to hold a pencil. Try this one:

Fingerplay: There Was a Little Turtle

There was a little turtle. (*make a fist*)
Who lived in a box. (*draw a square in the air*)
He swam in a puddle. (*pretend to swim*)
He climbed on the rocks. (*pretend to climb*)
He snapped at a mosquito. (*make snapping motion*)
He snapped at a flea. (*make snapping motion*)
He snapped at a minnow. (*make snapping motion*)
And he snapped at me! (*make snapping motion*)
He caught the mosquito. (*clap hands*)
He caught the flea. (*clap hands*)
He caught the minnow. (*clap hands*)
But he didn't catch me! (*wave finger as if saying "no-no"*)

See video at:

https://youtu.be/_X_nqJEdP3I



Sing



Slippery Fish

Slippery fish, slippery fish,
Sliding through the water.
Slippery fish, slippery fish,
Gulp. Gulp. Gulp.
Oh, no! I've been eaten by...

An octopus, an octopus,
Squiggling through the water.
An octopus, an octopus,
Gulp. Gulp. Gulp.
Oh, no! I've been eaten by...

Repeat song with the following verses:

A tuna fish, a tuna fish,
Flashing in the water.

A great white shark, a great white shark,
Lurking in the water.

End song with:

A humongous whale, a humongous whale,
Spouting through the water.
A humongous whale, a humongous whale,
Gulp. Gulp. Gulp.... Burp!
Pardon me!

Hear tune and see actions at

<https://youtu.be/OC9HS0lb4qI>

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!