

Did you know ...



Singing songs and rhymes is the perfect way to bond with your baby or toddler and share quality time together. When you sing and talk, your baby learns new words and begins to understand about language and expression. Singing makes your voice the first and most important voice in their life. When your child is a few years older, singing will help them develop important reading skills because they will begin to hear the little sounds in the beginning and ending of words.

A common reason grown-ups don't sing with children is that they don't think they have a good singing voice. But young children don't really know a good singing voice from a bad one; they just want you to sing and play with them because singing and playing make them feel loved.

Here's how ...



- ✦ Sing songs with your baby or toddler every day.
- ✦ Make up your own nonsense words and silly songs.
- ✦ Add actions, such as clapping or bouncing, as you sing a song or say a poem.
- ✦ Use diaper changing time to sing with your baby or toddler. Sing about what you are doing by changing the words to familiar songs.
- ✦ A baby can learn their name by hearing it in songs. Try switching your baby's name for other words in songs you like to sing.
- ✦ Say rhymes and sing songs in the language most comfortable for you.

Read

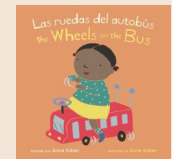
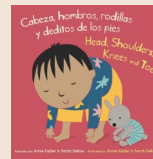


If You're Happy and You Know it (bilingual) by Annie Kubler



Based on the original song (see page 2), these verses include things babies and toddlers do every day. Listen to the original song first if you are not familiar with how to sing it. After singing each verse, talk about what the baby or toddler is doing on each page.

Some other books in this series:



Choosing Books



More books to read and sing with your child...

Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Eileen Christelow

The Itsy Bitsy Spider illustrated by Rosemary Wells

The More We Get Together adapted by Caroline Jayne Church

One Love by Cedella Marley

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star by Iza Trapani

You Are My Sunshine adapted by Jimmie Davis

The Wheels on the Bus by Raffi

Talk



Encourage your toddler to talk to their doll or teddy bear throughout the day. “Here’s a book. Can you read the book to Teddy?” “Let’s help Teddy get ready for bed. Can you tell him how to brush his teeth?” This lets your child practice language, helping her organize her thoughts into steps and sequences, and giving her the opportunity to use different words.

Ready to Write



Put a few rubber bands of different sizes around a thin box, container, or bread pan to create a guitar. Let your toddler use their fingers to strum the different rubber bands and make different sounds. It helps your toddler to use just one finger and strum a specific band. The thicker the rubber band, the less likely it will break. This activity helps with fine motor skills, hearing and listening, and vision development.



Play



Make more 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):

<https://tinyurl.com/wccls-shake-shakers>

Sing



If You’re Happy and You Know It

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. (*clap clap*)

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. (*clap clap*)

If you're happy and you know it, then you really ought to show it.

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. (*clap clap*)

Additional verses:

If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet. (*stomp stomp*)

If you're happy and you know it, shout hooray! (*hooray!*)

If you're happy and you know it, do all three! (*clap clap, stomp stomp, hooray!*)

Hear song at www.thelearninggroove.com/if-youre-happy-and-you-know-it



At your library ...



El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children’s Day/Book Day), often known as Día, is a celebration of children, families, and reading that culminates every year on April 30.

Check with your library for any special events and books in other languages.