

## Did you know...



Children love to sing, and when they play with words, as well as the smaller sounds in words, they are developing an early literacy skill called **phonological awareness**. Recognizing when words rhyme and hearing the beginning sounds of words are things that help children learn to read later on.

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 with them! It is helpful to slow songs down when you're singing with children so they can hear the letter sounds and words more clearly.

## Here's how...

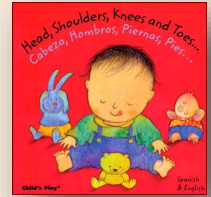


- ✦ Make up your own nonsense words and silly songs.
- ✦ Sing songs with your child every day. Songs break words into syllables and are a fun way to learn about word sounds. In most songs, each syllable in a word gets a different note.
- ✦ Add actions, such as clapping or bouncing, as you sing a song or say a poem.
- ✦ Say rhymes and sing songs in the language most comfortable for you.
- ✦ Listen to music CDs as you travel in the car. Play a variety of music, as well as traditional children's songs.

## Read



### **Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes (bilingual), by Annie Kubler**



Singing songs and rhymes is the perfect way to bond with your baby and share quality time. It also develops language by introducing them to the natural sounds and patterns of speech. Combining these with actions stimulates the brain and helps muscle development. Sing and play with your baby or toddler every day!

More books in this series:



## Choosing Books



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

*The Itsy Bitsy Spider*, illustrated by Rosemary Wells

*The More We Get Together*, adapted by Caroline Jayne Church

*One Love*, by Cedella Marley

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

*You Are My Sunshine*, adapted by Jimmie Davis

*Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*, by Iza Trapani

## Talk



Encourage your toddler to talk to her 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](http://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.