

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



The Itsy-Bitsy Spider, **by Jeannette Winter**



Songs that have been made into books allow you to read and sing with your child.

Talk about the pictures as you sing the words and turn the pages. When your child is a little older, they can “read” the book to you because they know the words of the song.

Here is a link to the song, “Itsy-Bitsy Spider,” performed by the Washington County Cooperative Library System:

tinyurl.com/itsy-bitsy-spider-wccls

Choosing Books



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

The Itsy Bitsy Spider, illustrated by Rosemary Wells

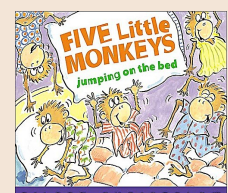
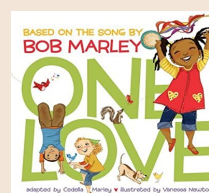
The More We Get Together, adapted by Caroline Jayne Church

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



Toddlers are fascinated by whispering, and it takes some practice for them to be able to do it. Help your child learn to control the level of volume in their voice by having your child mimic you saying a phrase using a “loud” or “big” voice, a “regular” voice, a “soft” or “little” voice, and then a whisper. Then use your whisper voices to give each other commands such as “clap your hands,” or “twirl,” or “hug teddy.” If you have a baby, you can use your whisper voice as you talk to her throughout the day.

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.

Now use your new shakers with this rhyme:

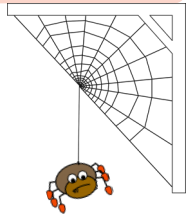
<https://tinyurl.com/wccls-shake-shakers>

Sing



The Spider in the Web

*Sung to the tune:
“The Farmer in the Dell”*



The spider in the web,
The spider in the web,
Spin, spin, oh watch him spin,
The spider in the web.

The spider eats a _____ (bug name)
The spider eats a _____.
Spin, spin, oh watch her spin,
The spider in the web.

Add a different bug name each time you sing the song!

Hear the tune “The Farmer in the Dell” at
<https://bussongs.com/songs/the-farmer-in-the-dell>

At your library...



Most libraries have free Wi-Fi that families can use for at-home learning. During the pandemic, many libraries have expanded Wi-Fi service. Some are loaning mobile hotspots, as well as laptops or devices. Call your library or check their website for more information about computers, devices, and Wi-Fi.