

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...

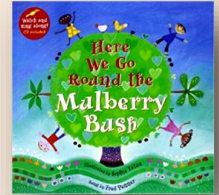


- ✦ Play children's music in the car while you are driving around the community.
- ✦ Make up silly songs as you go through your day, such as, "If you're hungry and you know it, eat a snack."
- ✦ Find out what songs your child is learning in school and sing them around the house. Many songs can be found 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.

Read



Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush, (traditional), illustrated by Sophie Fatus



Traditional songs, such as "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush," are those passed down over time and within cultures. They are 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.

Choose Books



Other Traditional Song books:

Row Row Row Your Boat, by Iza Trapani

May There Always Be Sunshine, by Jim Gill

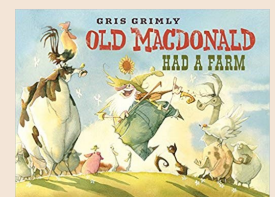
There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly, by Pam Adams

Miss Mary Mack: A Hand Clapping Rhyme, by Mary Ann Hoberman

If You're Happy and You Know It, by Anna McQuinn

Sing With Me/Canta Conmigo: Six Classic Songs in English and Spanish, by José-Luis Orozco

Old MacDonald Had a Farm, by Gris Grimly



Talk



Your child is learning so much in kindergarten, and one of the hardest things is figuring out how to get along in the classroom. Help your child find ways to use their words when they are angry or frustrated:

“I’m playing with this toy now, but you can have it when I’m done.”

“It hurt my feelings when you said that to me.”

“This is hard. I need some help.”

Write



Now that the weather is warming up, use outside time to practice writing. Give your child sidewalk chalk (you can get this at a dollar store) and let them write messages for family members or neighbors on the sidewalk, such as “Welcome home, Mom!” or “Have a nice day, Mr. Garcia!” Ask your child to write the sounds they hear, or picture the word in their head, rather than tell them how to spell the word.

Play



Make a water xylophone

You need at least three glass jars that can hold up to 2 cups of liquid.

Fill the first jar with 1/3 cup water, the second with 2/3 cups water, and the third with 1 cup of water. Use a spoon to lightly tap each jar and hear the different sounds the jars make.

More options:

- Use food coloring to color the water in each jar a different color.
- Use additional jars of water, increasing each by 1/3 cup more water than the previous jar.



Sing



My Auntie Monica

(Match body movements to words)

I have an aunt who dances,
my Auntie Monica,
and when we go out dancing
they all say, “Ooh, la, la!”
Ooh, la, la, ooh, la, la.

She likes to move her eyes,
like this, like this, like this.
She likes to spin and spin around,
Like this, like this, like this. Oh!

Repeat with:

She likes to move her nose.
She likes to move her head.
She likes to move her shoulders.
She likes to move her hands.
She likes to move her hips.
She likes to move her feet.
She likes to move her body.



See a version of this song from the King County Library System: <https://kcls.org/content/tia-monica-the-ooo-la-la-dancing-song/>

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.