

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 their vocabulary and improve their 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...

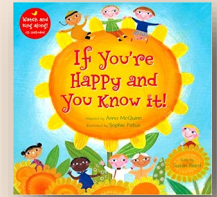


- ✦ Sing together — anytime or anywhere.
- ✦ Encourage your child to move to the music. Allow them to do this in their own way.
- ✦ Teach your child songs that you remember from your childhood.
- ✦ Make a game of listening to and repeating words, rhythms, or sounds. Listening will develop the ability to hear the sounds and patterns in letters and words.
- ✦ Make homemade instruments for your child to play as you sing or listen to music (see page 2).
- ✦ Clap the parts of the words as you sing them:
Twink-le Twink-le lit-tle star...

Read



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



In this fun version of the traditional song, children from cultures all over the world clap their hands, stomp their feet, pat their heads, and much more. You can see a video of the song and pictures at www.barefootbooks.com/kids/animated-videos/

Have some fun with your child by doing the motions as you sing the song:

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

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

Keep going!

Choosing Books



More books with songs to sing:

Singing in the Rain, by Tim Hopgood

Down by the Bay, by Raffi

Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed, by Eileen Cristelow

All You Need Is Love by John Lennon

The Seals on the Bus, by Lenny Hort

Maria Had a Little Llama, by Angela Dominguez

Mary Wore Her Red Dress and Henry Wore His Green Sneakers, by Merle Peek

Talk



Every family has a story, and children love hearing about theirs. It is important to hear tales of when they were younger, or where they have lived. If you have a map or globe, or access to a computer, you can show them where their ancestors came from. Make sharing family stories a family tradition!

Write



Help your child make a book of a favorite song: Staple several pages of paper together, and write one verse or sentence on each page, in large printed letters. Let your child illustrate it. Point to the words as you sing along together.



Play



Make 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):

We're Going to Shake Our Shakers

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

Sing



Old MacDonald Had a Band

(Tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm")

Old MacDonald had a band, E-I-E-I-O.

And in that band there was a flute, E-I-E-I-O.

With a tweet, tweet, here
and a tweet, tweet, there.

Here a tweet, there a tweet,
everywhere a tweet, tweet.

Old MacDonald had a band, E-I-E-I-O.

Repeat with other instruments:

... drum... boom...

... triangle... ding...

...guitar... strum...

... violin... rin...

... tambourine... tinkle...

... maracas... rattle...

Be creative!



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.