

Activities that Encourage Singing

Books That You Can Sing

Check out a book that is based on a song. You could even check out a CD to hear the song and/or follow along with the book.

I Ain't Gonna Paint No More by Karen Beaumont (E BEAUMONT)

Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush by Jane Cabrera (E CABRERA)

Five Little Monkeys by Lynne Avril
E CHILDRENS

Yankee Doodle by Edward Bangs
E CHILDRENS

Down by the Station by Will Hillenbrand
E HILLENBRAND

The Seals on the Bus by Lenny Hort
E HORT

Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes
by Eric Litwin (E LITWIN)

Hush Little Baby by Sylvia Long
E LONG

We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen
(E ROSEN)

If You're Hoppy by April Pulley Sayre
E SAYRE

Books That You Can Sing (continued)

Old MacDonald Had a Woodshop
by Lisa Schulman (E SCHULMAN)

Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah
by Allan Sherman (E SHERMAN)

There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly
by Simms Taback (E TABACK)

Mary Had a Little Lamb by Iza Trapani
E TRAPANI

Shoo Fly! by Iza Trapani
E TRAPANI

Little White Duck by Walt Whippo
E WHIPPO

Every Child Ready to Read is a project of the Association for Library Service to Children and the Public Library Association, divisions of the American Library Association.

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Overview

Whether your child is four days old or four years old, it is not too early or too late to help him or her develop important literacy and pre-reading skills. Doing this now will make it easier for your child to learn to read when he or she starts school.

Five of the best ways to help your child get ready to read are

- Talking
- Singing
- Reading
- Writing
- Playing

These practices are easy to do with children of all ages and can be done at home, at the doctor's office, in the car, or anywhere you and your child spend time together.

This handout's focus is on singing.



Sing Out!

Songs are a natural way to learn about language. Singing:

- Develops listening skills
- Slows down language so children can hear the different sounds in words, a key decoding skill
- Helps children learn new words and information

Most songs have a different note for each syllable. This helps children break down words so they hear individual sounds. Singing also slows down language so children can hear different parts of words and notice how they are alike and different.

For example, read "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" out loud:

Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are.

Now sing it or play a recording of someone singing it. Notice how singing slows down language. This helps children hear the sounds that make up words.

Clapping along to rhythms helps children hear the syllables in words, and it improves motor skills.

Not a great singer or worried about how you sound? Don't be. Your child doesn't care—he or she will love your voice because it is yours.

Places to Sing

Sing with your children any chance you have: at home, in the car, during a walk. You don't need a perfect voice, just some enthusiasm. Play music that was written especially for children. Check out music CDs from the library or listen to family-friendly music.

Move to the music. Children develop motor skills as they clap, jump, twirl, and spin to music. Make simple musical instruments and play them as you sing. Fill a plastic bottle with cereal or use a pie tin and wooden spoon as percussion instruments. Need more ideas for what to make? Find help at the library.

You also can sing nursery rhymes or sing instead of reading a book. Find a book that is based on a song or make up a simple tune for one of your child's favorite books.