



## Family Literacy at the Library

### Music Helps Children Learn

Music is a wonderful way for parents to emotionally connect with their children. Holding a young child and singing to him makes him feel safe, comforted, and loved. Music also helps children develop and learn.

- ★ The rhythm and tone of music stimulates brain development during the first three years of life.
- ★ Helping a child feel the rhythm of music stimulates her body and helps to develop balance and motor skills.
- ★ Singing to a child helps him develop listening and language skills, which will lay the

#### Rhythm Activities

- ✓ Rock your baby to the rhythm of the song as you sing it.
- ✓ While singing or listening to a song that has a definite rhythm, try keeping the rhythm with different body parts: clapping hands, slapping knees, rubbing backs, tapping foot, etc.
- ✓ Different musical styles have different rhythms, so try waltzes, marches, jazz, lullabies, classical, country, rock and roll.

#### Songs to Sing to Your Baby

April and Susan  
"Elephants Have Wrinkles" (from **Dinosaur Tango**). 1988.  
"Monkey" (from **Dinosaur Tango**). 1988.

Greg and Steve  
"Brown Bear, Brown Bear" (from **Playing Favourites.**) 1991.

Grammar, Red  
"I think You're Wonderful" (from **Teaching Peace.**) 1986.

The simple pitch patterns, repeating rhythms and stretched vowel sounds of lullabies make them one of the best ways to stimulate your infant's language abilities.

#### Music for Babies

Bartels, Joanie  
**Lullaby Magic.** 1985.

Palmer, Hap  
**Baby Songs.** 1989.

Raffi  
**Singable Songs for the Very Young.** 1996.

Reid-Naiman, Kathy  
**Tickles and Tunes.** 1997.

Various Artists  
**Preschool Favourites.** 1990.

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### Music Helps Children Learn (cont.)

#### Music Activities

- ★ Sing songs about food while preparing dinner: *Aikendrum; Ham & Eggs; One Potato-Two Potato; Stew Song; Apples & Bananas.*
- ★ Sing songs or rhymes about getting ready for bath, bed or brushing teeth: *Bath Time; Take a Bath; Ten in the Bed; Brush Your Teeth.* You can also make up your own rhyme or song to a familiar tune.
- ★ If your child becomes restless or upset while you are out in public, try calming her by softly singing her favourite songs. When you do this, she learns patience and to appreciate language spoken softly.

#### Music for Toddlers

Bartels, Joanie  
**Bathtime Magic.** 1990.

McGrath, Bob  
**Songs and Games for Toddlers.** 1985.

Palmer, Hap  
**Early Childhood Classics.** 2000.

Raffi  
**More Singable Songs for the Very Young.** 1996.

Sharon, Lois, and Bram  
**Mainly Mother Goose.** 1984.

#### Songs that Help Develop Literacy Skills

1-2 Buckle My Shoe  
Apples and Bananas  
Bingo  
Boom Chicka  
Chickadee and Chipmunk

#### Songs that Help Develop Literacy Skills (cont.)

Five Little Monkeys  
Funky Bluesy ABC  
Head & Shoulders (knees & toes)  
If You're Wearing Colors  
Wobbidob

#### Books that are Songs or Rhymes

Crebbin, June  
**Cows in the Kitchen.** 1998.

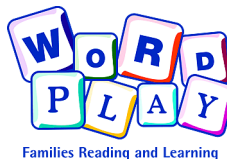
Degen, Bruce  
**Jamberry.** 1995.

Hort, Lenny  
**The Seals on the Bus.** 2000.

Paxton, Tom  
**Jennifer's Rabbit.** 2001.

Raffi  
**Baby Beluga.** 1997.

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Families Reading and Learning

