

Family Activities

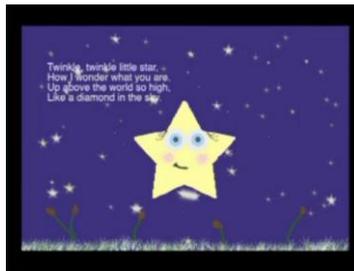


Readiness Skill: Sings simple songs

Simple familiar songs, which are easy to follow as the flow of the words is enhanced by the flow of music, provide good language models for children. The activities provided here will give you many opportunities to use song and music as a springboard for learning.

Classic Songs for Children

Classic children's songs are a great way to teach basic concepts to young children. When singing a familiar song, periodically stop before certain words in the song and encourage your child to fill in the missing word. When he or she does, praise him or her. This will help your child with memory and recall. Examples of some popular children's songs are included with these print activities.



Rhyming Fun

Rhyming is a great skill that can be reinforced through music and song. Listen for rhymes in songs you know or hear on the radio, on TV, or at family gatherings, and sing them with your child.



Chores

Involving your child in everyday chores and routines is a way to help foster independence. A creative way to avoid these chores from becoming something your child tends to dread is to make these chores fun tasks by setting the stage through music and song. The lyrics of many classic tunes could easily be changed to match the particular activity you are doing with your child. Below is an example of how the lyrics to "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush" were modified to help your child complete his or her self-help skills.

*“This is the way we wash our hands, wash our hands, wash our hands.
This is the way we wash our hands, so early in the morning.
This is the way we brush our hair, brush our hair, brush our hair.
This is the way we brush our hair, so early in the morning.
This is the way we button our shirt, button our shirt, button our shirt.
This is the way we button our shirt, so early in the morning. “*

Repeat this tune with other chores you and your child may do.

Song Books

Read children’s books to your child that contain songs. There are many books available that are set to a tune. Be sure to stress the rhyming word on the first reading of the book, but do not comment on them. After reading the book, mention to your child that the book has many words that rhyme. Read the story once again and invite your child to call out when he or she hears a pair of rhyming words. Your child will have fun telling you which words from the story that rhyme.



Song Books

There are many children’s books available that have been made into song books. Help your child pick out some favorites to enjoy again and again.



Five Little Speckled Frogs by Nikki Smith
Old Macdonald Had a Farm by Scholastic Inc.
The Itsy Bitsy Spider by Iza Trapini
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star by Iza Trapini
The Wheels on the Bus by David Ellwand

Song List

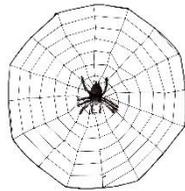
Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

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.



The Itsy Bitsy Spider

The itsy bitsy spider
Climbed up the waterspout.
Down came the rain
And washed the spider out.
Out came the sun
And dried up all the rain.
And the itsy bitsy spider
Climbed up the spout again.



Where is Thumbkin?

Where is Thumbkin? Where is Thumbkin?

Here I am. Here I am.

How are you today sir?

Very well I thank you.

Run away. Run away.



If You're Happy and You Know It

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it.

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

Repeat with other actions such as: snap your fingers, touch your nose, blink your eyes, stomp your feet, etc.



You are My Sunshine

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine
you make me happy when skies are gray
you'll never know dear, how much I love you,
please don't take my sunshine away.



The Wheels on the Bus

The wheels on the bus go round and round,
round and round,
round and round.

The wheels on the bus go round and round,
all through the town.

The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish;
Swish, swish, swish;
Swish, swish, swish.

The wipers on the bus go Swish, swish, swish,
all through the town.

The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep;
Beep, beep, beep;
Beep, beep, beep.

The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep,
all through the town...

