

SINGING



Facts about Singing

- Singing is important because it slows language down. This helps children hear individual sounds in words.
- Singing and music stimulates all different parts of the brain, which helps with reading and learning.
- Music encourages movement with young children that helps develop coordination and muscle strength.



Social-Emotional Development

Music and movement activities such as singing and dancing foster self-confidence and self-awareness. Singing in a group helps a child connect with peers. Music-based activities help children to explore new ideas and new words. Singing with others encourages children to share the “spotlight.” This helps children better understand the idea of sharing and turn-taking.



Language and Communication

Children can hear the sounds that make up individual words through singing. Children also have the opportunity to learn new words through singing new songs. Songs often rhyme, which helps introduce this literacy concept. The rhythm of the music helps prepare children to hear the rhythm of reading. Children can learn new concepts through songs that introduce math, science, history, different cultures, different languages, sequencing . . . the list goes on and on.



Books That Encourage Singing

- ***Dancing Feet*** –Lindsey Craig; Marc Brown
- ***Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes*** –James Dean; Eric Litwin
- ***De Colores: Bright with Colors*** –David Diaz
- ***Chicka, Chicka Boom Boom*** –Bill Martin, Jr.; John Archambault; Lois Ehlert
- ***Raffi Songs to Read series*** –Raffi



Music That Encourages Singing

- ***Whaddaya Think of That*** –Laurie Berkner
- ***Smile at Your Neighbor*** –Eric Litwin
- ***The Singable Songs Collection*** –Raffi
- ***Music Time with SteveSongs*** –SteveSongs

Activities That Encourage Singing

- Check out CDs or downloadable music from the library. Allow your child to listen to the music in the car or at home.
- Learn songs with your child. What you think is important, your child will see as important. If you model a love of music and reading, your child is more likely to do the same.
- Make up silly songs together. This helps your child play with the sounds in language.
- Clap out the syllables in words with your child. This will help your child understand how words are broken up into parts.
- Play music during quiet times at home. The rhythm of music stimulates the brain.



Session 2: Singing

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sing familiar songs that play with sounds, such as "I Like to Eat Apples and Bananas."		Visit the library! Check out some music to play at home or in the car with your child.		Encourage your child to make up their own songs.		Sing the day's schedule to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.
	Sing the alphabet song together, and then encourage your child to sing it alone.		Clap out the syllables as you sing a song together.		Purchase an inexpensive echo microphone. Encourage your child to put on a concert for you.	
Encourage your child to make up his/her own words to a familiar tune.		Visit the library! Check out a book that is a song you can sing together.		Make a drum together using an oatmeal container.		Clap a rhythm and encourage your child to repeat what he/she hears.
	Sing a song with letters, such as BINGO.		Sing a song that tells a story, such as Mary had a Little Lamb.		Sing songs together in the car.	
Sing a song that encourages your child to echo or repeat you.		Ask your child to pick out a song to sing together each morning.				

Early Literacy Practice: Singing

The activities this month will help you foster language skills through slowing down the sounds in language. Singing and music also helps children to understand rhythm, which helps with developing skills necessary for reading.

Readiness Domain Focus: Approaches to Learning; Language and Communication; Social and Emotional Development