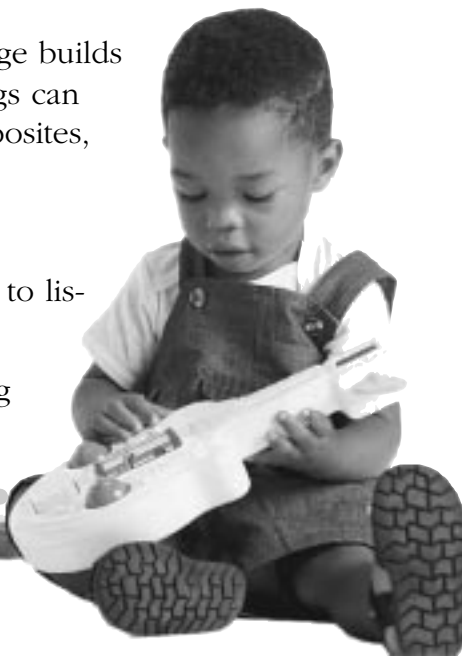


## Development: How to Learn and Grow with Music

Music is a part of life from the moment a child is born. A song soothes a crying baby, and with time, toddlers will sing the songs they've heard as they go about their day. Singing songs helps improve your child's language and lays foundation skills for learning to read.

### Why Use Music with Young Children?

- ♪ Since listening develops in the womb, babies are primed to enjoy music.
- ♪ By three months of age, babies respond to music and songs, which builds verbal recognition of sounds and words.
- ♪ Listening and responding to music from an early age builds vocabulary and prepares children for reading. Songs can help explain different concepts such as colors, opposites, and the alphabet; it's a fun way to learn!
- ♪ Music can expose your child to different cultures.
- ♪ Music can help develop confidence and the ability to listen and follow directions.
- ♪ Scientists believe music trains the brain for thinking and reasoning skills.



### Try These Tips to Share Music with Young Children ...

- ♪ Play soothing lullabies at night.
- ♪ Hold your infant in your arms and look into his or her eyes when you sing along with recordings or your own songs.
- ♪ Even if you sing off-key, your warmth and caring come through.
- ♪ Clapping or banging a spoon or rattle to the music helps develop your babies' sense of rhythm.
- ♪ Dancing to the music is fun and helps use some of that energy toddlers have in such abundance. Toddlers are active and will learn from moving their bodies to the music.
- ♪ Do finger plays while you sing. Toddlers enjoy the motions, and the repetition helps their brains grow.
- ♪ Visit your local library to borrow finger play books and audio cassettes.
- ♪ Use songs to help your child make transitions. Make music part of your daily routine!

