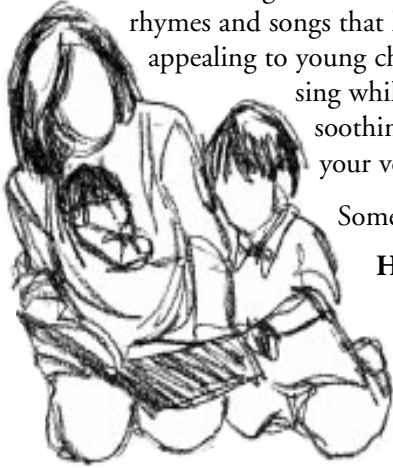


Emergent Literacy: Rhymes and Songs

When you enjoy rhymes and songs with your children, you are helping form the connections in the brain for learning to talk, to read, and creating a closeness that will last a lifetime. Rhyming words and songs attract children's attention and help them recognize familiar sounds. Choose rhymes and songs that have repeated phrases and verses. Rhymes and songs with motions are appealing to young children. Acting out rhymes is fun. Sing while you work, sing in the car, sing while you play, while you clean-up. Songs at bedtime are relaxing and soothing. Don't worry if you can't carry a tune – your young children enjoy your voice best of all and aren't music critics yet!



Some favorites are:

Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. (*act out by falling*)
All the king's horses and all the king's men
Couldn't put Humpty together again.
(*snuggle up your child*)

Old Mac Donald

Old Mac Donald had a farm E-I-E-I-O
And on this farm he had a cow E-I-E-I-O
With a moo-moo here and a moo-moo there
Here a moo there a moo everywhere a moo-moo
Old Mac Donald had a farm E-I-E-I-O
(*toddlers and two's love to choose the animals to add*)

The Wheels on the Bus

The wheels on the bus go 'round and 'round
(*circle hands at 'round and 'round*)
'Round and 'round
The wheels on the bus go 'round and 'round
All through the town.

Other verses:

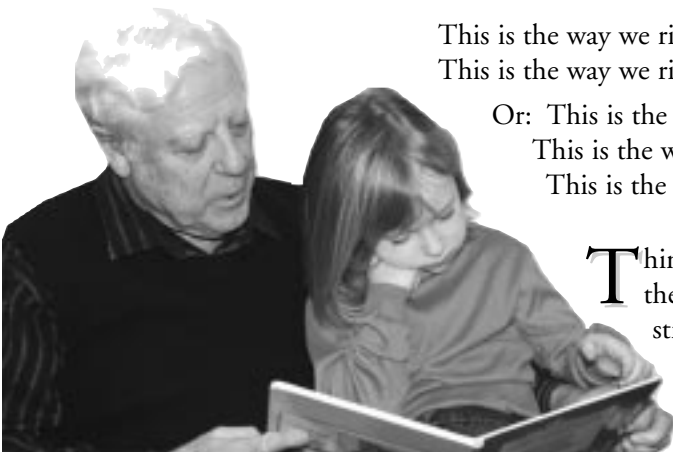
People go up and down
Babies go wah-wah-wah
Wipers go swish, swish, swish *And make up your own!*



Using familiar tunes to sing about what you're doing is fun! For example take the tune "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush" and change it to:

This is the way we ride in the car, ride in the car, ride in the car.
This is the way we ride in the car. All through the day.

Or: This is the way we brush our teeth.
This is the way we pick up our blocks.
This is the way we wash our hands.



Think of your favorite rhymes and songs and share them with your children. Remember repetition helps strengthen connections in the brain, so doing the same rhymes and songs again and again is helping make the connections for learning to read!