

Books, songs and rhymes

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How to use songs and rhymes

- In the car you can sing 'The wheels on the bus'.
- At bath time you can sing 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes', 'This is the way we wash our face' or 'Row, row, row your boat'.
- Whilst waiting for meals you can sing 'Sausages in the pan' or 'Hot cross buns'.
- At bedtime you can sing 'Twinkle twinkle little star'.

Why are they important?

Books, songs and rhymes are important for children as they introduce new ideas, thoughts and experiences to your children. The pictures in a book are visual. They stay the same every time you go back to it. This helps your child's learning.

Songs and rhymes are fun, interactive and repetitive. This helps your child to learn new words. You can sing whatever you like, whatever you like and your child will not care how you sound. Most importantly books, songs and rhymes are activities that you can do together.

How to use books

These fit in with the typical steps in the development of attention and listening skills.

- Pick a book that is suitable to your child's level of development and concentration skills e.g. 'lift the flap' and 'touch and feel' books are good for young children as they are interactive.
- Make sure you are face to face as you are reading the book. This means you are sharing the activity together.
- Go at your child's pace, allow time for them to tell you the story. This might not make sense but they are using their language and communication skills.
- You don't always have to stick to the story. Make up your own story up or talk about the pictures.

For further information

www.allnurseryrhymes.com

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/curations/nursery-rhymes



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