



# Sing Us a Song!



<i>Strategies to use:</i>	<i>How does this help?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch the children's cues: waving arms, kicking feet, bobbing heads—all are ways the child communicates: "This is fun! I like doing this!"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As you respond to children's cues, it encourages them to continue to try to participate and communicate with you.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let toddlers fill in the blanks in familiar songs ("This old man, he played _____").</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Filling in the blanks supports the child's listening skills, vocabulary, and turn-taking.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use gestures—if a song doesn't have hand or body movements, make them up! Stomp your feet, wiggle your fingers, wave your hands!</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="537 926 732 1171" data-label="Image"> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As you use movement and gestures, you make the song more interesting.</li> <li>• The child's participation by waving arms or legs develops coordination and an understanding of symbols (waving hands/fingers down in front of my body can mean "rain").</li> <li>• Songs with movements and gestures also teach body awareness (where my nose is) and coordination (how to get my hands to clap).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dance! Infants and toddlers who aren't walking yet like to move their bodies and enjoy having adults help them sway to the beat!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movement helps children develop gross motor movement.</li> <li>• Experiences with moving to a beat help support pre-literacy skills of patterns of language.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make up songs about what children are doing ("I've gotta wash, wash, wash my toes! Gotta wash, wash, wash my toes.&gt;").</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Singing about an activity can make it a lot more fun and often makes the activity go a lot faster!</li> <li>• The more songs you sing, the more words you use, the greater your child's vocabulary grows!</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use music to set a tone—sing a bright song when it is time to wake up and a calming song to when it is time to "settle down."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both children and adults tend to respond to the beat of music—moving fast to upbeat songs and more slowly to calmer songs.</li> </ul>