



Music and Rhyming with Young Children

Why are music and rhyming important?

- Learning how to read involves playing with words and sounds and learning the connections between the sounds and the letters of the alphabet.
- Music and rhyming helps children pay attention to and hear the different sounds in language.
- The steady beat of music helps children learn how words can flow.

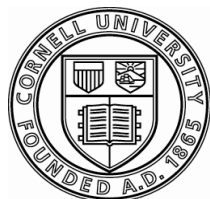
Music

Music helps all areas of development.

- Language Skills Children can learn new and different vocabulary words through songs. They also practice listening skills as they pay attention to the music.
- Thinking Skills Children will develop thinking skills as they experiment with how and why different objects make different sounds.
- Social and Emotional Skills Soft, quiet music can calm an upset child. Upbeat music can put children in a good mood and entertain them. Music can help children move from one activity to another more smoothly.
- Movement Skills Children naturally move to the beat of music. Their coordination improves as they begin to do more than one movement at the same time, such as clapping and marching.

Music Activities

- Listen to different types of music at home and in the car
- Sing songs to and with your children, such as "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" and "The Itsy Bitsy Spider"
- Make your own musical instruments, such as an oatmeal container drum or a macaroni rattle
- Use scarves or feathers to dance to music
- Attend free concerts in your local area



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Rhyming

- Hearing rhymes and poems gets children interested in all types of reading and writing.
- Learning nursery rhymes and poems helps children practice memorization skills.
- Rhyming can help children build their vocabulary as they learn to tell the difference between real and made-up words.
- Rhyming helps children hear the sounds in language.

Rhyming Activities

- Say nursery rhymes, read rhyming books, and read poems with your children
- Using old magazines, have your children look for pictures that have names that rhyme. For example, choose a picture of a cat and find other pictures with names that rhyme with *cat* such as *hat*, *mat*, and *bat*. Have your children cut out the pictures and paste them on a sheet of paper. Have them say all the rhyming words on their sheet of paper.
- Think of words that rhyme, such as *cap*, *map*, and *lap*. You can also make up new words such as *bap*, *dap*, and *wap*.

Other Language and Listening Activities

- Letter sound "I Spy" - I spy something that begins with the /d/ sound
- Sing songs and say chants that play with letter sounds
- Say tongue twisters like Peter Piper and talk about the sounds you hear
- Play word games — Put your thumbs up if the words I say start with the same sound and put your thumbs down if they start with different sounds.
- Do a sound hunt by finding objects that start with the same sound as your child's name.

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