

Let's Make Music and Dance!

Tips for Parents and Caregivers

Here are ideas and activities to try this week with your child. Each activity is based on one of the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles of early literacy development and is designed to engage your child, stimulate his or her literacy skills, and enhance the bonds between you.

1. **SHARE BOOKS** Share books in rhyme, and read them like a rap, keeping a beat. Tap your baby's knees to the beat.
2. **SHARE SOUNDS** Often there is rhythm to the sounds your baby makes, and your baby may repeat the same sound over and over again melodically. Sing along with your baby once you detect the rhythm and sounds. This is your own form of communication!
3. **SHARE WORDS** Introduce your child to new words by showing him pictures of musical instruments. If you have access to the Internet, you can find many sites that show musical instruments for children. (One is called "Musical Flashcards"; please do not use these as flashcards, but simply show the pictures and name the instruments.)
4. **SHARE RHYMES** This week, continue to share the rhymes from today's storytime. Help your child keep a beat to the rhymes while you recite them. You can use wooden spoons or rattles, or just clap your hands.
5. **SHARE SONGS** Sing today's storytime songs with your child throughout the week. Let your child play an instrument along with the song, including shaking a bell or beating a wooden spoon on a pan.
6. **SHARE STORIES** Share a familiar story that your child knows, and add sound effects and sing some of the words. Your child will love how the story comes alive!
7. **SHARE PLAYTIME** Dance to music that you and your child love. Use everyday objects for musical instruments and form a family parade! Hide a musical toy that your child likes, set it to play, and then have your child find it by following the music it's making.

Songs and Rhymes for Let's Make Music and Dance!

Here are the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with them every day, you will help your child make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

Songs

If You're Happy to Be Here

(sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*
If you're happy to be here, then place a smile there, *(Point to mouth)*
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands. *(Clap hands)*

If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, *(Clap hands)*
If you're ready to have some fun, then join in everyone,
(Motion hands to join in)
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands. *(Clap hands)*

The Noble Duke of York

The noble Duke of York, *(Bounce child on lap)*
He had ten thousand men,
He marched them up to the top of the hill,
(Lift child up high, little by little)
And he marched them down again. *(Lower child, little by little)*
And when they were up, they were up, *(Lift up)*
And when they were down, they were down, *(Lift down)*
And when they were only halfway up, *(Lift up halfway)*
They were neither up nor down. *(Lift up and down)*

Ring Around the Rosie

Ring around the rosie,
(Turn in circles while holding baby or holding toddler's hand)
Pocket full of posies,
Ashes, ashes,
We all fall down! *(Sit down)*
(Repeat two or three times)

Rig-a-Jig-Jig

Give child a baby-safe rattle. For even more fun, march in a circle playing the instrument. Carry babies while marching, or hold a young toddler's hand.

As I was walking down the street,
Down the street, down the street,
A fine musician I chanced to meet,
Hi ho, hi ho, hi ho!
Rig-a-jig-jig and away we go,
Away we go, away we go,
Rig-a-jig-jig and away we go,
Hi ho, hi ho, hi ho!

The More We Get Together

The more we get together, *(Sway child from side to side)*
Together, together,
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.
For your friends are my friends, *(Point to child, then to self)*
And my friends are your friends, *(Point to self, then to child)*
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.

Additional Verse

The more we play together...

Rhymes

Hey Diddle Diddle

Hey diddle diddle, the cat and the fiddle,
(Make or help child make fiddling motion)
The cow jumped over the moon, *(Jump hands up in air)*
The little dog laughed to see such a sight,
(Put hands over eyes as if looking)
And the dish ran away with the spoon. *(Run fingers up child's arm)*

Dance, Little Baby

Dance, little baby, dance up high, *(Lift child high)*
Never mind baby, Mama's nearby, *(Lower child)*
High and low, fast and slow, *(Lift and lower)*
Up little baby, down you go! *(Lift and lower)*
Up to the ceiling, down to the ground, *(Lift and lower)*
Backwards and forwards, round and round,
(Tilt child away, then pull toward you)
Dance little baby, and Mama shall sing, *(Gently bounce child in lap)*
With a merry little bell that ding-a-ding dings.

Old King Cole

Old King Cole was a merry old soul,
(Move arms up and down as if marching)
A merry old soul was he.
He called for his pipe, *(Clap twice)*
He called for his bowl, *(Clap twice)*
And he called for his fiddlers three. *(Clap three times)*
Every fiddler, he had a fiddle, *(Gently bounce or sway in rhythm)*
And a very fine fiddle had he.
Twee, tweedle-dee, tweedle-dee,
Went the fiddlers, *(Make or help child make fiddling motion)*
Tweedle-dee, went the fiddlers three.