

Sing a Song of Sixpence

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** Many board books for young children are familiar songs. *Twinkle, Twinkle, Time for Bed* and *If You're Happy and You Know It* are two board books offering text that can be sung; ask your librarian for more suggestions. Your child will love to hear you “sing a book”!
- 2. SHARE SOUNDS** When your child makes sounds like singing a song, imitate the sounds. Go back and forth if possible, like a conversation. Babies actively seek out the sounds of voices of people who are close to them.
- 3. SHARE WORDS** Share the same song over and over (just like reading a familiar book). Your child will learn the words, and the repetition will help build her memory skills.
- 4. SHARE RHYMES** Recite and repeat favorite nursery rhymes, and sing them, too! Many of the Mother Goose rhymes have been set to music, and you probably know them. Say, then sing, “Jack and Jill,” for example, or “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”
- 5. SHARE SONGS** Sing today’s storytime songs with your child this week. Share them over and over, and make up motions or dance with your baby as you sing. Make up songs by using familiar tunes while doing everyday activities, such as getting dressed.
- 6. SHARE STORIES** You can turn any story into a song! Tell your child what activities and routines you are going to be doing during your day by singing them. Also, make up silly story songs.
- 7. SHARE PLAYTIME** Act out songs, dance to music you and your child love, and use everyday objects to make music (e.g., banging wooden spoons on a pot).

Songs and Rhymes for Sing a Song of Sixpence

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 Wheels on the Bus

The wheels on the bus go round and round, *(Roll hands)*
Round and round, round and round.
The wheels on the bus go round and round,
All through the town.

Additional Verses

The doors on the bus go open and shut ... *(Open and close arms)*
The wipers on the bus go swish-swish-swish ... *(Sweep arms)*
The people on the bus go up and down ... *(Lift child up and down)*

Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes

Head, shoulders, knees, and toes—knees and toes!
(Touch each body part when named)
Head, shoulders, knees, and toes—knees and toes!
And eyes, and ears, and mouth, and nose,
Head, shoulders, knees, and toes—knees and toes!

Five in the Bed

There were five in the bed, and the little one said,
"Roll over! Roll over!"
So they all rolled over, and one fell out!

Additional Verses

There were four in the bed ...
There were three in the bed ...
There were two in the bed ...

There was one in bed, and the little one said,
"Good night!" *(Rest head on hands)*

The Bear Went Over the Mountain

To motion the bear walking, pat your hands on a baby's knees, one at a time, to the beat of the song. A young toddler may be able to do the movement on her own.

The bear went over the mountain, *(Make bear walking motion)*
The bear went over the mountain,
The bear went over the mountain,
To see what he could see.
To see what he could see, *(Put hand at brow, looking around)*
To see what he could see,
The bear went over the mountain, *(Make bear walking motion)*
The bear went over the mountain,
The bear went over the mountain,
To see what he could see. *(Put hand at brow, looking around)*
(Spoken) And what do you think he saw?
The other side of the mountain,
The other side of the mountain,
The other side of the mountain,
Is all that he did see. So ...
The bear went down the mountain, *(Make bear walking motion)*
The bear went down the mountain,
The bear went down the mountain,
Very happily.

Itsy Bitsy Spider

The itsy bitsy spider *(Climb hands or child's hands from low to high)*
Went up the water spout.
Down came the rain *(With open hands, sweep from high to low)*
And washed the spider out.
Out came the sun *(Make sun overhead with arms)*
And dried up all the rain,
And the itsy bitsy spider *(Climb hands from low to high)*
Went up the spout again.

Sing a Song of Sixpence

Sing a song of sixpence, a pocket full of rye,
(Bounce child on lap from side to side)
Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie,
When the pie was opened, the birds began to sing.
Wasn't that a dainty dish to set before the king? *(Lift child high)*

The More We Get Together

The more we get together, *(Sway from side to side in time to music)*
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...