

# Sing a Song of Sixpence

## Presenter Tip Sheet

### About This Storytime

Songs make even the youngest baby smile! And even more than rhymes, songs help children hear the small sounds in words, because each syllable in a song has its own note. Today's storytime centers entirely on the joy and the language learning made possible by the sounds of singing.

### Books

For books to share in this storytime, pick three from the list below, or choose other board books or picture books in your collection that reflect the theme and are developmentally appropriate for babies and young toddlers. Always share your longest book first. For your second, choose a participatory book that engages the child or both the caregiver and child. For the third and last story, share a book told through the use of a flannel board or magnetic board, or use a prop or other visual. The examples provided in the storytime program fit these guidelines. If most children are restless and you feel the program is too long for that day, skip the last story and concentrate on the rhymes and songs.

### Book Suggestions:

- *The Bear Went Over the Mountain*, by John Prater (Barron's Educational, 1999)
- *Do Your Ears Hang Low?* by Caroline Jayne Church (Egmont, 2002)
- *Five in the Bed* (Baby Fun), by DK Publishing (Dorling Kindersley, 2003)
- *Five Little Ducks*, by Justine Smith (Scholastic, 2007)
- *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* (A Teddy Bear Sing-Along Book), by David Ellwand (Silver Dolphin Books, 2011)
- *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*, by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2003)
- *I'm A Little Teapot!* by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2007)
- *Itsy Bitsy Spider*, by Annie Kubler (Child's Play International, 2005)
- *The Itsy-Bitsy Spider*, by Lorianne Siomades (Boyd's Mills, 1999)

- *The Itsy-Bitsy Spider* (Bunny Read Back), by Rosemary Wells (Scholastic, 1998)
- *Old MacDonald Had a Farm* (A Teddy Bear Sing-Along Book), by David Ellwand (Silver Dolphin Books, 2009)
- *One Little Duck* (Baby Fun), by DK Publishing (Dorling Kindersley, 2003)
- *Row, Row, Row Your Boat* (A Teddy Bear Sing-Along Book), by David Ellwand (Silver Dolphin Books, 2011)
- *Ten in the Bed*, by David Ellwand (Chronicle Books, 2002)
- *Ten in the Den*, by John Butler (Peachtree, 2005)
- *Today Is Monday*, by Eric Carle (Philomel, 2001)
- *The Wheels on the Bus* (A Teddy Bear Sing-Along Book), by David Ellwand (Silver Dolphin Books, 2010)

### Songs

This storytime, devoted exclusively to singing, includes eight songs. The same opening and closing songs should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. Provide simple movements or motions to accompany each song. Caregivers can rock the child back and forth, bounce the child in time to the music, or clap the child's hands. For babies, the caregiver can move the child's hands, fingers, and body, or otherwise help the baby execute the song movements. Young toddlers may be able to do the movements themselves or may need help. Using recorded music during the storytime is fine, although it's best to sing the songs with a live voice, or sing along with simple recordings, so that very young children can hear the words and the sounds making up each word. Recorded music is often sung too fast for this purpose. For your reference or to play during storytime, The Very Ready Reading Program includes a CD of songs recorded at an appropriate tempo. Track numbers for each recording are provided in the songlist below and on the storytime program card.

### Songs for This Storytime:

- Opening Song: "If You're Happy to Be Here" (sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It") 🎧 22 🎵 23
- "The Wheels on the Bus" 🎧 54
- "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" 🎧 16

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- “Five in the Bed” (sung to the tune of “Ten in the Bed”)  12
- “The Bear Went Over the Mountain”  6
- “Itsy Bitsy Spider”  25
- “Sing a Song of Sixpence”  43
- Closing Song: “The More We Get Together”  28  29
- Shake Your Bells Activity: “Shake Your Bells” (sung to the tune of “Skip to My Lou”)  42
- Music Medley Activity: “Twinkle, Twinkle Medley”  50

## Activities

This storytime includes an optional theme-related activity, to be completed after the closing song. Below are three to choose from, including at least one that is suitable for the youngest babies. The activity you choose might depend on the size or predominant age of your audience, the amount of time you have to prepare, your space or environment, and the materials needed. The activities are designed with safety and the very limited attention spans of babies and young toddlers in mind. However, always keep in mind and remind caregivers: **Any time an activity involves materials such as paint, sand, string, or small pieces, close adult supervision is required.** Although each activity has a learning aspect, the emphasis should be on fun!

### Activity Suggestions:

**Magnetic Itsy Bitsy Spider.** For each family, reproduce black-and-white line drawings of the song “Itsy Bitsy Spider,” found at: [www.makinglearningfun.com/themepages/SpiderItsyBitsyFeltBoard.htm](http://www.makinglearningfun.com/themepages/SpiderItsyBitsyFeltBoard.htm). Have children or adults color the patterns with large chubby crayons. Give each family magnetic stripping or a magnetic circle (purchased at any craft store), and have them cut and fasten a magnet on the back of each pattern piece. The family can sing the song at home and move the pieces on the refrigerator, a cookie sheet, or another metal surface.

**Shake Your Bells.** Purchase or make wrist bells (see Resources, pages 55–56), or place two or three jingle bells inside a small resealable plastic bag, seal the bag, and secure the closure with glue or tape. Give each child a set of wrist bells or bag of bells. Have them jingle the bells and move while singing the following song:

“Shake Your Bells”  42  
(sung to the tune of “Skip to My Lou”)

Shake your bells and shake them high,  
Shake your bells and shake them low,  
Shake your bells and shake them high,  
Shake your bells, my darling.

Shake, shake, shake your bells,  
Shake, shake, shake your bells,  
Shake, shake, shake your bells,  
Shake your bells, my darling.

**Music Medley.** Play an assortment of music that is not created specifically for children, and that includes country, easy rock, jazz—any lively music that an adult can dance to while holding a baby or holding a young toddler’s hands. Explain to caregivers that exposing children to different kinds of music is very beneficial. For more information, see the Zero to Three website article “Getting in Tune: The Powerful Influence of Music on Young Children’s Development” at [www.zerotothree.org/child-development/social-emotional-development/getting-in-tune.html](http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/social-emotional-development/getting-in-tune.html). As an alternative, play “Twinkle, Twinkle Medley” on The Very Ready Reading Program CD, and have families dance and sing along with this familiar tune played in a variety of music styles and tempos.  50

## Early Literacy Tips

Promote the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles with parents and caregivers by emphasizing the three early literacy tips found in the yellow boxes in the storytime program.