

The Magic of Music for Language Development

How to have fun and teach your child

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The Magic of Music

- Think of a song from your childhood
- What was the name of the song?
- Why do you remember it?



A Favourite Song

- * You liked the song because:
 - * You shared it with a family member.
 - * It had fun words and sounds.
 - * It was repetitive
 - * You sang it over and over.



Where Does Music Fit into Your Day

- * Think of times during the day when you involve the children in music
- * What role does music play?
- * What roles do children have in sharing the music?



Where Does Music Fit into Your Day

- * A favourite song can be soothing before bedtime or nap time.
- * Music can help children perform household routines (eg. Tidy up song cues children to put toys away.)
- * You can make up a song to get through challenging times (singing a song about eating, using a familiar tune, might be fun for a child who is a fussy eater)



Music and Language: The connection

- * Music is a language in its own right
 - * It communicates feelings and moods
 - * It helps develop vocabulary
 - * It gives children the rhythmic patterns that will be important for later literacy
 - * Helps develop listening skills



Sharing Music With Children

- * Sing face to face (When your child can see you, it makes it easier for your child to learn words and gestures)
- * Emphasize new words, so your child will learn them.
- * Slow down the song, so your child can really hear the words and therefore be able to learn those new words
- * Pause during a song you've sung before with your child, to give her a chance to take a turn and join in the singing



Make Songs Part of Your Everyday Routines

- * Use familiar tunes and make up new words
- * Use fun actions and gestures and give your child a chance to join in and take the song in their own direction
- * Use varied intonation and enthusiasm
- * Have fun



- * Think of a song you sing with your child.
- * What can your child do to participate?
- * Use a gesture ('eesy, weensy spider' or 'row, row, row your boat')
- * Say a word or a phrase
- * How can you help your child participate?
- * Slow the song down
- * Pause at different times to let your child sing a word or use a gesture



A Song or Rhyme Routine for My Child

- * Think of a song you sing with your child.
- * What can your child do to participate?
- * Use a gesture ('eesy, weensy spider' or 'row, row, row your boat')
- * Say a word or a phrase
- * How can you help your child participate?
- * Slow the song down
- * Pause at different times to let your child sing a word or use a gesture



Music and Literacy: An Important Connection

- * Through music, children learn about syllables
- * Through music, children learn about rhyming
- * Through music, children learn to discriminate different sounds, an important skill for reading
- * Through music children learn to understand directions, new words and new concepts

