



Music & Early Literacy



Phonological Awareness

In song, each syllable of the word has its own note. This helps children hear the smaller sounds that make up words. When picking music to help with Phonological Awareness, try songs that are slightly slower so your child can sing and hear every note. Also, songs that include animal noises or other sound effects are great for this skill. Some great songs for Phonological Awareness include nursery rhymes and popular children's songs such as Old MacDonald and If You're Happy and You Know It. If you can't understand every word perfectly, pick a different song.

Vocabulary

For younger children, any kind of "naming song" where you are singing a long list of animals, foods, or any other objects will work. For older children, provide pictures and text that go along with the unfamiliar words in a song.

Narrative Skills

Repeat, repeat, repeat. That's the key to a song that strengthens Narrative Skills. Makeup songs that go through a sequence of events (This is the way we brush our teeth, wash our face, comb our hair, before we go to bed.)

Letter Knowledge

Be very careful how you select alphabet songs. Most recorded songs blur L, M, N, O, and P. Try slower versions, or songs that highlight one letter at a time. Have your child listen for one particular letter (start with the first letter of their name). When they hear it, have them wave their hands up or down.

Print Awareness and Print Motivation

Pick music that goes with a book. Read it and then sing it! Nursery rhymes are great for this, or adapted songs like "The Wheels on the Bus." You can also sing the song and then read something like The Seals on the Bus by Lenny Hort. You can sing along to I Ain't Gonna Paint No More by Karen Beaumont and then play "It Ain't Gonna Rain No More." Some books even contain parts of songs within the text, like Punk Farm by Jarrett J. Krosoczka or the Pete the Cat books by Eric Lithwin. Don't forget to write the words out for kids to sing along and read! Even non-readers can learn sight words as you point to the word and sing it.

