



Tips for Singing with Your Child

In order to learn to sing, a child needs to be sung to!

Repeat, repeat, repeat. It takes about 12 repetitions of a two-line rhyme for a typical 3-year-old to “get it”.

Vary your voice. Add interest to your songs by changing your voice to sound higher, lower, softer or louder.

Sing higher than you normally do. Young children’s vocal range is not very wide—it’s about 3-4 notes, and their voices are higher than adults.

Slow down. Your child will follow the song more easily if you slow down.

Rap it. If you are shy about singing, say the words in rhythm.

Make up songs. Songs are a useful tool during transitions to let your child know what is happening next. Getting dressed songs, washing hands songs, going to bed songs, cleaning up songs, silly songs...the possibilities are endless!

And remember to incorporate music in everyday routines because...

- Music gives children a reference point, a way to respond appropriately;
- Simple songs communicate without nagging or endlessly repeating directions;
- Singing captures their attention more easily so transitions will be smoother and children are more likely to remember the daily routine.