



Lilly
recommends...

Fun *Singing* Ideas

Babies

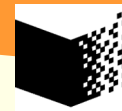
- Make a list of children's rhymes and say them frequently with your baby. For example: Baa Baa Black-sheep, This Little Piggy, etc.
- Name your baby's eyes, nose, ears, mouth, lips, cheeks, elbows, hands, fingers, feet, toes, knees, tummy etc.
- Play soft music and move rhythmically with your baby. When babies listen to classical or instrumental music, their entire brain lights up with activity. Avoid constant music in the background which will be screened out.
- Give your baby a shaker toy (or create a shaker by putting some rice or dried peas or beans in a can with a plastic lid and securing the lid shut with hot glue or duct tape). Encourage your baby to shake the shaker as you sing a song or chant. Clap your hands as accompaniment.
- Hum and sing every day. Your baby loves your voice, even if you think you can't sing! Singing to a baby develops their language skills by focusing on intonation, rhythm, rhyme and speech patterns.
- Place a plastic container on the floor and give your baby a wooden spoon. Guide their hand to bang on the container while you sing a song together. Keep singing and let your baby explore drumming.
- Sing a song just using the syllable "la, la, la".

Toddlers

- Make a list of all the children's songs that you remember. Make an effort to sing these regularly with your child.
- Show your child photographs of different common animals (dog, cat, mouse, horse, cow, pig, sheep, owl, etc) Make the sound that the animal makes as you look at its photograph. Encourage your child to make the sound by saying, "Dog. This is a dog. What does the dog say?"
- Sing the Alphabet song together.
- Go outside on a nice day. Encourage your child to stand very quietly and listen to sounds outside. When you hear something, try to imitate it and name it for your child. Encourage your child to make the sound and/or name it.
- Choose a song you both like to sing. Sing it a few times using different voices each time—sing it with a squeaky voice. Sing it with a deep, low voice. Sing it with a whispering voice, etc.



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Fun *Singing* Ideas

Preschoolers

- At some point during the day, play with your name and your child's name by finding as many real and nonsense words that rhyme with each of them.
- Check out a children's poetry book from the library. Read a poem each evening before bed. When you have read all the poems. Ask your child if they had a favorite.
- Walk around the room and as you name objects together, slowly clap out the number of syllables in their names. For example, table is two syllables so you would clap twice as you say "ta-ble". Refrigerator is five syllables so you would clap five times as you say "re-frig-er-a-tor".
- As you make lunch or dinner, give alliterative (both words begin with the same sound) names to ingredients. For example, "Now it's time to add the cheeky cheese. I'm going to use the gritty grater to grate the cheeky cheese". Have fun with as many alliterative words as you can.
- Using rhymes that your child knows well—Mother Goose or others—recite most of it in a whisper, but say the rhyming words out loud, for example:
 - (whisper) Hickory, dickory (loud) dock.
 - (whisper) The mouse ran up the (loud) clock.
 - (whisper) The clock struck (loud) one
 - (whisper) The mouse fell (loud) down
 - (whisper) Hickory, dickory (loud) dock!
- As a change to that activity, recite a rhyme out loud and stop before saying the rhyming word at the end. Encourage your child to complete the rhyme with the rhyming word.
- Pull out some scarves or lightweight fabric. Put on music and dance together, playing with the scarves. Use directional words like up, down, between, through, behind, above, over, under, around etc.
- Check out a book of tongue twisters from the library or look up some fun tongue twisters online. Practice them frequently with your child.
- Sing a familiar song, like "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" together—first in a high voice and then in a low voice.
- Sit very quietly outside or beside an open window and listen for sounds. What do you hear? What makes the sound? How would you know? As an added writing activity—make a list of the sounds that you heard.
- While outside, act out this chant: "We're running, running, running! We're running, running, running! We're running, running, running! And now we STOP! We're hopping, hopping, hopping! We're hopping, hopping, hopping! We're hopping, hopping, hopping! And now we STOP! Chant other movements like: marching, walking, crawling, wiggling, clapping, nodding etc.
- Make a list of your favorite songs and make sure to sing one every day!