

Ready to Read

An Early Literacy Newsletter

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Sing a Song, Read Along

Singing is joyful! Singing is fun! For young children, singing is also a valuable stepping stone to early literacy. It is not

enough to simply know letter names. Children must also know letter *sounds*. This skill, phonological awareness, prepares children for a greater chance of success when learning to read and write.

Singing slows down the sounds in words, making it easier to hear each sound. When we sing with children, they can hear each syllable in a word, because there is usually a different note for each syllable. Many songs use repetitive phrases, giving children more opportunities to hear and absorb those words

and phrases. They also use rhymes, allowing children to hear the similarity between the parts or syllables.

Singing requires greater mouth movement which helps children better articulate the sounds. Children adopted from certain areas internationally may not have been exposed to much spoken language before adoption. Parents have found that singing with their children helped them develop language skills quickly in a fun, interactive way.

Don't worry if you don't have perfect pitch. Preschoolers aren't judging our performance skills; they are just having a great time!

- written by Jan Harrod, Early Literacy Assistant

Library Books Based on Children's Songs

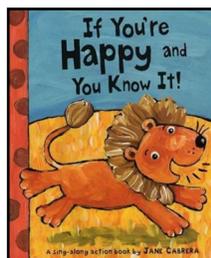
Encourage the development of phonological awareness and add to the fun of your storytimes by including books based on familiar children's songs. Find these and many other sing-along stories at your neighborhood library branch.

Author Shout Outs

Jane Cabrera has created many books based on children's favorite songs:

If You're Happy and You Know It

Animals sing different verses of this popular song that encourages everyone to express their happiness.



Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Lively animal characters are a delight in this version of the well-loved children's song.

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

A variety of baby animals are lulled to sleep by a

version of the familiar lullaby tailored to their environment.

The Wheels on the Bus

In this version of the classic song, animal passengers roar, flap and chatter while riding a bus.

Iza Trapani has illustrated many children's song books:

The Bear Went Over the Mountain

An expansion of the traditional song which features a battle between a gardener and some "pesky critters" in search of a snack.

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“Library Books Based on Children’s Songs” continued from page 1

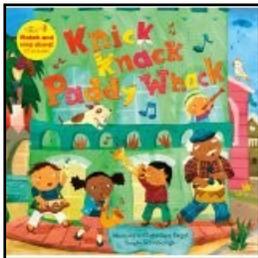
Froggie Went A-Courtin’

An adaptation of the folk song about a frog in search of a bride.

Itsy Bitsy Spider

The itsy-bitsy spider encounters a fan, a mouse, a cat and a rocking chair as she makes her way to the top of a tree to spin her web.

Favorite Children’s Folk Songs



Knick Knack Paddy Whack

by Christiane Engel
Adapted from the traditional folk song, this version features a parade of children from different cultures, each of them playing a different musical instrument.

Miss Mary Mack by Mary Ann Hoberman

An expanded adaptation of the familiar hand-clapping rhyme about a young girl and an elephant.

Old MacDonald Had a Farm by Lorinda Bryan Cauley

Fourteen farm animals take readers through a day with the floppy straw-hatted farmer.

There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly

by Simms Taback
An illustrated version of the cumulative folk song in which the solution proves worse than the predicament when an old lady swallow a fly.

Variations on Old Favorites

If You’re a Monster and You Know It by Ed Emberley

Monsters sing their own version of this popular song that encourages everyone to express their happiness.

There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Bat!

by Lucille Colandro
A twist on the classic tale of “There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly” takes the story even further as the lady goes about swallowing up a variety of Halloween creatures.

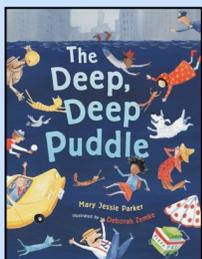
There Was an Old Monster by Ed Emberley

In this variation on the traditional cumulative rhyme, a monster swallows ants, a lizard, a bat and other creatures to try to cure a stomach ache than began when he swallowed a tick.

The Wheels on the Race Car by Alex Zane

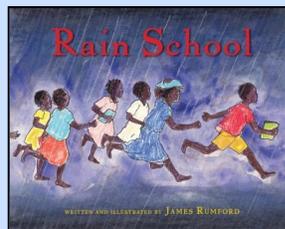
Animal race car drivers roar around the track. Text based on the popular song “The Wheels on the Bus.”

Diversity Books of the Month



The Deep, Deep Puddle by Mary Jessie Parker

During an overnight rainstorm, a large and deep puddle forms across a city street and increasing numbers of creatures or things disappear into it, from one shaggy dog to nine robbers. This book includes male and female characters of varying ages and diverse racial backgrounds in every group featured from police officers to taxi drivers. *Appropriate for ages 3-5.*



Rain School by James Rumford

The children arrive on the first day of school and build a mud structure to be their classroom for the next nine months until the rainy season comes and washes it all away. This book introduces children to the challenges of school life in the African country of Chad in a simple way. *Appropriate for ages 4-5.*

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