

Singing and Sound Play

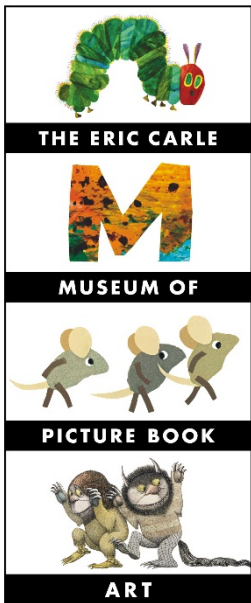
From birth, the sound of your voice helps to calm and comfort your child. Singing and playing with sounds helps your child to:

- develop *phonological awareness* – the ability to hear distinct sounds
- practice moving their mouths and tongues to make different sounds
- develop narrative skills like sequencing of events and cause-and-effect
- learn new vocabulary, practice counting and grouping objects
- take turns, cooperate, and listen to others
- connect sounds to the letters and words they see in print

Singing also helps children to memorize words, so they gain confidence as readers and are motivated to learn to read for themselves!

What you can do:

- Join literacy educator David Feinstein for [this interactive storytime featuring Eric Carle's Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?](#) Encourage your child to imitate the animal sounds as you watch!
- Read books that you can sing (see the booklist below). Encourage your child to sing along, pointing out words and phrases as your child sings them.
- Read books with repeated words or phrases. Encourage your child to say the repeated phrase with you each time it appears.
- Read books that feature fun sound effects or animal noises. Encourage your child to help tell the story by making these sounds!
- Read books that rhyme, inviting your child to identify rhyming words in the text. Ask them to provide other words that rhyme, or to invent nonsense words!
- Explore [Jbrary's amazing YouTube playlist](#) to find fun songs, rhymes, and games!
- Sing songs that encourage your child to use their hands to act out the story (like *Twinkle, Twinkle* or *The Itsy-Bitsy Spider*). This helps your child develop fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination – skills they will need for reading and writing!
- Try singing instead of saying when playing or doing tasks with your child. Children learn new words best when they learn them in a fun, natural setting.
- When reading to your child, ask open-ended questions that encourage them to look closely and talk about the pictures in the book. Ask what they see happening and what they think will happen next.



Singing and Sound Play – Booklist

Have fun singing and making sounds with these books, available through your library.

Books you can sing:

Barnyard Dance by Sandra Boynton
Snuggle Puppy by Sandra Boynton
Let it Shine by Ashley Bryan
Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes by James Dean and Eric Litwin
If You're a Monster and You Know It by Ed Emberley and Rebecca Emberley
Hush, Little Baby by Marla Frazee
Down by the Station by Will Hillenbrand
The Seals on the Bus by Lenny Hort and G. Brian Karas
Old Mikamba Had a Farm by Rachel Isadora
Over in the Meadow by Ezra Jack Keats
Punk Farm by Jarrett Krosoczka
This Little Light of Mine by E.B. Lewis
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands by Kadir Nelson
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star by Jerry Pinkney
Baby Beluga by Raffi
Let's Sing a Lullaby with the Brave Cowboy by Jan Thomas
Down by the Bay by Raffi and Nadine Bernard Westcott
Five Little Ducks by Raffi and José Aruego
There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly by Simms Taback

Books with rhyming, repeated phrases, and fun sound effects:

One Day in the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree by David Bernstram and Brendan Wenzel
Moo, Baa, La La La! by Sandra Boynton
Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin
Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney
Meow Said the Cow by Emma Dodd
Bark, George by Jules Feiffer
Oh, No! by Candace Fleming and Eric Rohmann
Cars Go by Steve Light
Trains Go by Steve Light
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr and John Archambault
Listen to Our World by Bill Martin Jr, Michael Sampson, and Melissa Sweet
Shake Shake Shake by Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney
Charlie Parker Played Be Bop by Chris Raschka
We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury
Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle and Jill McElmurry
One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss
Pouch! by David Ezra Stein
Say Zoop! by Hervé Tullet