

## HOW TO TEACH YOUR CHILD A NEW SONG OR RHYME

Here are some simple steps to follow in teaching your child a new song or rhyme:

- ◆ If you are teaching a song, **say** the words in the rhythm of the song before you add the melody.
- ◆ Sing or say one line, but leave out one word. For example, "Mary had a little \_\_\_\_\_."
- ◆ Sing or say the words you are teaching your child. Repeat them several times. Look for ways to "practice" throughout the day...while bathing, making a meal, driving in the car, etc.
- ◆ If the song or rhyme has actions, demonstrate them as you teach.
- ◆ Use graphics or photos to reinforce the words. For example, in the song, "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" the words spider, rain, and water spout are used. Hold the graphic or photo up while you say the word.
- ◆ Change the intonation of your voice to match the song or rhyme...loud/soft, high/low, fast/slow. This also makes remembering easier for your child.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONTACT:



Ready to Succeed



UC Cooperative Extension  
11477 E Avenue  
Auburn, CA 95603  
530 889-7350

Website: <http://ceplacer.ucdavis.edu>  
E-Mail: [ceplacer@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ceplacer@ucdavis.edu)

Funding for this brochure  
provided in part by:



University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

The University of California prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities. (Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at [http://danr.ucop.edu/aa/danr\\_nondiscrimination\\_and\\_affir.htm](http://danr.ucop.edu/aa/danr_nondiscrimination_and_affir.htm) )

Direct inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies to the Affirmative Action Director, University of California, ANR, 1111 Franklin St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 987-0096.

## SING A SONG, SAY A RHYME



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Ready to Succeed

530 889-7350

# LEARNING FROM SONGS AND RHYMES

Aside from being just plain fun, singing songs and saying rhymes with your child will help foster his early literacy and brain development. Well before any formal



reading instruction begins, a strong foundation must be laid for those later skills to be built upon. There

is an overwhelming amount of research that shows how critical the early years are in shaping brain development and a child's enthusiasm and capacity for learning. It is your interaction with your child that will determine this development.

Singing, saying rhymes, and any other sort of rhythmic activity such as marching or clapping will foster your child's brain development. These types of activities help make connections in the part of the brain that will later be used for math, science, and problem-solving.

In those songs and rhymes that include movement and actions, your child will develop her spatial and body awareness.

Your child will also develop his listening

skills and memory; understand order and sequence; and learn concepts such as colors, counting, or shapes.

With songs and rhymes your child will increase his vocabulary. The size of a child's vocabulary and his ability to discriminate sounds are two of the greatest predictors of how easily he will learn to read.

And let's not forget the added benefits for your child. Singing songs and saying rhymes is a great way to relax, it fosters your child's sense of humor, and stimulates her creativity and imagination.

All of this learning by simply taking the time to sing songs and say rhymes! It only makes sense to take advantage of this opportunity with your child!

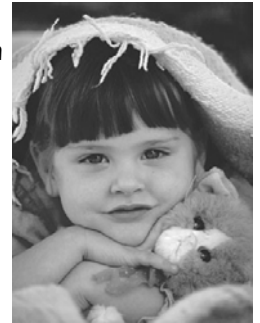
## WHEN TO SING OR SAY RHYMES WITH YOUR CHILD

The short answer...anytime...every day...anywhere! If you need specifics, here are some ideas.

- ◆ **Waiting Time** ~ This would include waiting in line at the grocery store, movie theater, or coffee shop, or waiting for an appointment, etc. Your child will be more content if there is something keeping her mind occupied. What better way to pass the time and help your child's development in the process?
- ◆ **Bath Time** ~ This is a wonderful opportunity to sing fun and silly songs or say whacky rhymes with your child. Make up songs or

rhymes about arms, legs, tummy, or face as you wash her or help her bathe.

- ◆ **Bedtime** ~ We often associate singing with infants. Lullabies at bedtime or naptime are typically something we do naturally. Often the habit is stopped as children get older. Keep singing! It will come in handy on those nights when you are too tired to read a story.



## CREATE YOUR OWN SONGS!

Take the words to a song you know, such as "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" and change the words to create a story about picking the flowers in your garden! How empowering for your child to be able to help to write a song! For example here is a song written by Paula Westernen:

*Look around and you will see  
Yellow flowers all for me  
Don't they smell so good and sweet  
Time with Mom is such a treat  
Pretty flowers all around  
And they don't even make a sound!*

