

Introduction

Singing songs and reciting rhymes help children recognize and work with sounds in spoken language, building their phonological awareness. We are able to hear the smaller sounds in words when singing because there is a distinct note for each syllable. This practice will help children sound out words when they learn to read. Recognizing rhythm and rhymes helps children anticipate what will come next, which helps prepare them to make predictions when reading.



Here is a fun activity you can do with your little one to get them singing and moving to the rhythm! Help them learn to listen for and keep a steady beat.

Supplies

- 2 cube-shaped tissue boxes
- Construction paper
- Light-weight cardboard
- Packing tape
- Scissors
- Template
- Crafts sticks
- Egg shakers
- Newspaper (optional)

Instructions

- 1. (Optional) Fill the tissue box with crumpled newspaper: The newspaper will help support the side of the box and make it sturdier.
- 2. Cut a piece of light-weight cardboard the same dimensions as the side with the opening on the tissue box: You can use an old cereal box.

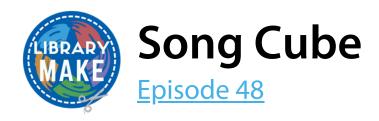
Additional Resources

Visit Plano Public Library's official YouTube channel to view this activity and other Library Make videos

Check out our blog post about this activity at Plano Library Learns

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Instructions, continued

- 3. Wrap the tissue box using construction paper and tape.
- 4. Cut out song cards from template and glue one card on each side of the box.
- 5. Repeat steps 1-3 for the second tissue box.
- 6. Cut out movement cards from template and glue a card on each side of the second box.
- 7. Cover each side of the box with packing tape. This will "laminate" the entire box, making it more durable.

How to Use Your Song Cube

Toss both cubes to see which song and movement will go together. Sing the song and demonstrate the beat according to what was rolled. Sing the song slow at first to help your child discover the beat. Adjust the tempo of the song as your child gets used to the movements and the rhythm. You can speed up or slow down the song to make the activity more interactive.



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Clapping **Tapping** Hands on Legs Egg **Stomping Shakers Your Feet Tapping Dancing Sticks**

Wheels on the Bus

London Bridge

Head and Shoulders

Itsy Bitsy Spider

Twinkle, Twinkle Row your Boat

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I I	1 1
Wheels on the Bus	London Bridge
The wheels on the bus go Round and round Round and round, round and round The wheels on the bus go Round and round All through the town	London Bridge is falling down Falling down, falling down London Bridge is falling down My sweet baby
The wipers on the bus go Swish, swish, swish Swish, swish, swish, swish, swish The wipers on the bus go Swish, swish, swish All through the town	So come and take a walk around, Walk around, walk around Come and take a walk around My sweet baby
Head and Shoulders	Itsy Bitsy Spider
Head and shoulders, knees and toes Knees and toes, knees and toes Head and shoulders, knees and toes Eyes, ears, mouth and noes	The itsy bitsy spider climbed up the water spout Down came the rain and washed the spider out Out came the sun and dried up all the rain And the itsy bitsy spider climbed up the spout again
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Twinkle, Twinkle	Row your Boat
Twinkle, twinkle, little star How I wonder what you are Up above the world so high Like a diamond in the sky Twinkle, twinkle little star How I wonder what you are	Row, row, row your boat Gently down the stream Merrily, merrily, merrily Life is but a dream