

# **Songs, Stories and Singing Games For Tots to 8s**

**Chinese Proverb : I hear & I forget-see & I remember-I do and I understand...  
Ambron: "Children have to involve their bodies as well as their minds in order to understand the world & experiences. If he may not engage body, as well as mind, he will switch off."**

***Singing Games are perfect for family programming  
I recommend having a seasonal-potluck-family sing & dance along***

## **Songs, Stories & Singing Games Provide**

- a child's first introduction to poetry, committing verse to memory...
- a sequence similar to a child develops in play from solitary to co-operative...
- a possible correlation between a child's early songs & beginning reading skills...
- easy learning and remembering through the 3 Rs...rhyme-repetition-rhythm...
- support of a child's sequential development of gross motor skills...
- vehicle to learn-movement may nourish brain-impacts total development
- comfort with un-imposed discipline and moving through space...
- a safe environment where children can make mistakes...
- a link between control of movement patterns and cognitive development...

## **Active Singing vs. Ordinary Songs**

- children are least auditory-experiences need to be visual & kinesthetic...
- need to experience the joy of discovery through play...
- co-ordination of mind, voice and body, builds game-musical & social know how...
- an active part of the learning process occurs when game is new...
- the words provide a model of complete sentences & may introduce new parts of speech in a most easy and enjoyable way...
- activities have a way of bringing people together-providing a sense of community...
- opportunities for children to celebrate their heritage & diverse ethnic backgrounds...
- children are wired for movement, energizes and relieves stress...
- help soothe a cranky soul, build trust, self-esteem...safe vehicle for self-expression...

## **A Great Deal of Learning Takes Place During Singing Games**

- games often require thinking skills...
- learn melodies-perform actions that reinforce rhythms & phrases of songs...
- improves listening skills-must listen for change in music to change directions
- once children know game they will anticipate the next movement w/ their bodies...
- games contribute to social skills as they learn to share & take turns...
- activities can be altered to meet new occasions or moods...
- traditional games enrich lives-expand knowledge of other times & cultures

***Howle, Mary Jeanette. "Play Party Games in the Modern Classroom." MENC Journal (March 1997)***

## **Boat Story**

**8 ½ x 11 paper-fold ½-Elaborate/Exaggerate Motions/Let Children Add to Story/Act Out...**

- 1...put child in boat-water not calm-boat is rocking-child getting scared- large bird from sky-what kind of sounds-takes big bite, side of boat(tear one side)...**
- 2...child getting nervous-rocking more-another big bird (sounds) bite of other side (tear other side)...**
- 3...really nervous-getting warm-taking clothes off-pants, shoes, T-shirt, throws in water-had bathing suit or underpants on...**
- 4...under water-big fish -sounds like-looks like-make fish face- bites big hole in bottom-what happens to boat????? (tear bottom)**
- 5...boat sinking-child jumps out-swimming to shore-have children do different strokes... gets safely to shore-looks at boat sinking-something floating. T-SHIRT...**

### **Some Books and Activities to Enhance Listening**

#### **Sing a Story**

- **A You're Adorable- M. Alexander**
- **Bling Blang- Woody Guthrie**
- **From Head to Toe- Eric Carle**
- **I Went Walking- Sue Williams**
- **Possum Come a-Knockin'- Nancy Van Laan**
- **Snappy Little Farmyard**
- **Who Is Tapping At My Window? A.G. Deming**

#### **Simple Sounds**

- **Barnyard Banter- Denise Fleming**
- **Bumpety Bump- Kathy Henderson**
- **Froggy gets Dressed- Jonathan London**
- **Jake Baked the Cake- B.B. Hennessy**
- **The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything- L. Williams**

#### **Suggests Movement**

- **Clap Your Hands- Lorinda Bryan Cauley**
- **Dear Zoo- Rod Campbell**
- **Jump Frog Jump- Robert Kalan**
- **Runaway Bunny- Margaret Wise Brown**
- **slither, swoop, swing- Alex Ayliffe**

#### **Speaks of Art and Poetry**

- **Jamberry- Bruce Degan**
- **Morningtown Ride- Malvina Reynolds**
- **Patrick Paints a Picture- Saviour Pirotta and The Dot- Peter Reynolds**
- **Snowmen at Night- Caralyn Buehner**
- **The World of Christopher Robin- A.A. Milne**

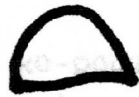
William Tell Overture-Rossini/What A Wonderful World-Louis Armstrong Wiggle wiggle fingers. Way up to the sky. Wiggle, wiggle fingers. Wave them all goodbye...



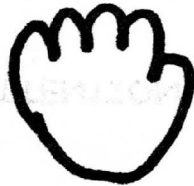
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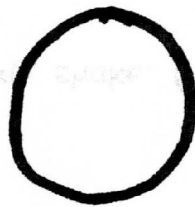
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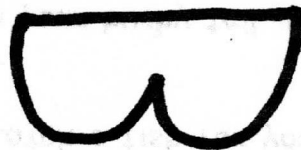
knee



hand



head



bottom