



MUSIC FOR KIDS AGE 2-3

Playtime is important for your child's development. Children learn through play by experimenting, practicing, and creating. Research shows music is a wonderful way to play that strengthens the bond between you and your child while also encouraging your child's developmental growth.

During these months, children are learning to:

- Speak in short sentences
- Enjoy observing and imitating others
- Understand instructions, but may refuse to do them
- Dance and hop on one foot

Music activities to encourage MOVEMENT:

- Play *Where is Thumbkin & Itsy Bitsy Spider* with your child.
- Have your child create their own hand movements for *Wheels on the Bus* and incorporate them into the song.
- Create a marching band and play instruments while marching around the room.
- Play "follow the leader" and have your child follow you around the room marching, jumping, walking fast and slow, etc. Have your child lead by creating their own movements. Play recorded music while moving.
- Sing *Head and Shoulders* and have your child follow along by doing the actions.
- Play a musical game of fast and slow. Sing a song you know and change the speed of the song each time through.

Music activities to encourage LANGUAGE

- Sing/chant fun rhymes like *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*.
- Encourage your child to make animal sounds by singing *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*
- Continue to sing, sing, sing!

Music activities to encourage SEEING AND HEARING

- Create your own kitchen band. Use pots, pans or plastic containers for drums. Fill cups, margarine tubs or empty canisters with beans, rice or sand for shakers. Be sure to seal the container well to prevent spills.
- Check your local library for illustrated songbooks, such as *This Old Man*, *Ants Go Marching*, *Old MacDonald*, and *What a Wonderful World*. Sing them with your child.

Music activities to encourage SOCIALIZATION and EMOTIONS

- Encourage your child's independence as appropriate. Use songs to encourage this, for example: (to the tune of *All Around the Mulberry Bush*)
This is the way we pull on our shirt, Pull on our shirt, pull on our shirt
This is the way we pull on our shirt, So early in the morning.
(...wash our hands, put on our socks, etc.)



Where is Thumbkin?

Where is thumbkin, where is thumbkin
Here I am, here I am
How are you today sir, very well, I thank you
Run away, run away
...pointer
...tall man
...ring man
...baby
...all the men

Ants Go Marching

The ants go marching 1 by 1,
Hoorah, Hoorah!
The ants go marching 1 by 1,
Hoorah, Hoorah!
The ants go marching 1 by 1,
The little one stopped to suck his thumb,
And they all go marching
Down into the ground to get out of the rain,
Boom, boom, boom.
(2. tie his shoe, 3. Climb a tree, 4. Shut the door, 5. Scratch his thigh, 6. Pick up sticks)

Wheels on the Bus

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
...doors go open and shut
...horn goes beep, beep, beep
...wipers go swish, swish, swish
...babies go wah, wah, wah
...parents say shh, shh, shh
...people go up and down

Old MacDonald Had a Farm

Old MacDonald had a farm, e-i-e-i-o
And on that farm he had a cow, e-i-e-i-o
With a moo moo here, and moo moo there
Here a moo, there a moo
Everywhere a moo moo
Old MacDonald had a farm, e-i-e-i-o
(Repeat with different animals)

Head and Shoulders

Head and shoulders, knees and toes,
Knees and toes
Head and shoulders, knees and toes,
Knees and toes
Eyes and ears and mouth and nose
Head and shoulders, knees and toes,
Knees and toes

If You're Happy and You Know It

If you're happy and you know it
Clap your hands
If you're happy and you know it
Clap your hands
If you're happy and you know it
Then your face will surely show it
If you're happy and you know it
Clap your hands
...stomp your feet
...shout hurray
...shake your head, etc.

5 Little Monkeys

Five little monkeys jumping on the bed,
One fell off and bumped his head,
Momma called the doctor
And the doctor said,
No more monkeys jumping on the bed!
(count down...4 little monkeys, 3, 2, 1,
No more little monkeys