

Suggestions to encourage **SINGING** during storytime

Incorporate Lots of Songs and Singing into Storytime!

Children benefit from hearing and participating in music and singing. Songs naturally break words into smaller parts in a fun way, slowing words down and making it easier for children to hear syllables. In turn, this will help children sound out words when they begin to read.

You can certainly play pre-recorded songs in storytime, but make sure you also sing—even if you don't feel you have "the best" singing voice. It's important to model to parents that they can sing with their child--no matter their skill level!

Rhymes and Fingerplays

Rhymes and fingerplays are a close relation to singing. An emphasis on rhyming and rhythm exposes children to similar and different sounds, and fingerplays build on this because the whole body gets to act out and feel the rhythm.

Use Manipulatives or Instruments

Rhythm sticks, bells, shakers, scarves, bean bags, and any other "manipulative" you can think of not only builds a child's hand strength and fine motor skills, but using them with music and singing allows the child to get involved with their whole body! A parachute can similarly be shaken in time to a song.

Dancing

There is nothing better than a dance break in storytime to both "get the wiggles out" and to help a child feel the rhythm of a song. As mentioned above, this whole-body approach can help them really feel the syllables of the words in a song!

Opening and Closing Songs

Repetition is excellent for young children. They learn what to expect and can participate more fully; it also helps to establish strong connections between neurons in the brain when they do or hear something repeatedly. So, it's good to use some of the same songs and rhymes every week (it may require coordination with your coworkers if more than one of you presents the program). An easy way to do this is using the same Opening and Closing songs every week.

Here is one example of a "Hello Song," from Jbrary on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/aj4d6MLhJcE>

Here are some examples of "Goodbye Songs" from LibrarianLindsey on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/V650iBkWCUA>

Background Music

Background music is a great way to incorporate more music into programming for ANY age! Play it while families enter (soothing classical music is great for this), or during the craft or play time.