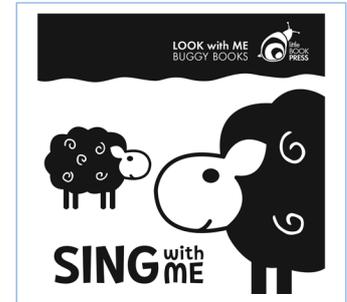


LEARNING TIME

Sing with me Raising Literacy Australia and Fiona Bowden

A take anywhere black & white nursery rhyme buggy book. A perfect first book for baby and family to share together at the supermarket, in the car, at the park or whilst taking a stroll in the pram.



Newborns can clearly focus on strong contrasting colours and shapes. Introducing black and white board books supports families to develop an all-important book routine with their baby right from the start.

Key Message for Parents | The first five years matter and last a lifetime

In the first five years of a child's life up to 90% of brain development occurs. We can support this early and critical development with daily reading, singing, talking and playing with children as part of a daily routine. It is important that families understand the early years and how they can support their child's development.

- Every time you play, sing or read with young children they are learning about language.
- Make books available at every opportunity such as in the pram or in the car
- Board books are great for babies. Let them chew or suck on them, exploring is how babies learn
- Talk about things from the book, demonstrating a genuine interest and naming what you see
- Take your time. Let babies look at the pictures. With high contrast images babies will be captivated, so allow plenty of time to look at each image.

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

From birth children communicate by gestures and sounds. We can support children to become effective communicators in the following ways:

- Respond to babies in direct and meaningful ways. Encourage eye contact, positive body language such as smiling and pause to allow babies to respond to you by babbling, cooing or gesturing
- Advise parents of the benefits of singing and chanting with babies and young children, telling them 'as we sing we slow down our speech thus helping babies to hear the sounds and parts of words more clearly. This helps them to learn language
- Talk with babies about what they are doing, seeing, hearing or touching.

Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

Welcome song - Come Along

Come along and sing with me, sing with me

Come along and sing with me, it's time for story time!

Repeat and replace 'sing' with bounce, rock, clap etc.

Come along and bounce with me, bounce with me, bounce with me

Come along and bounce with me, it's time for story time!

Song

Round and Round the garden

Round and round the garden

Like a Teddy Bear

One step, two steps,

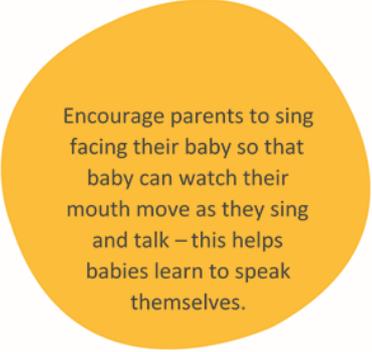
Tickly under there

Round and round the haystack

Went the little mouse

One step, two steps

And right up in the air!

A large yellow circle with a thin white border, containing text. Below the circle is a horizontal line.

Encourage parents to sing facing their baby so that baby can watch their mouth move as they sing and talk – this helps babies learn to speak themselves.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jhd2CFVTcfk>

Before Reading

Take the opportunity to tell families about the benefit of high contrast images, and how babies can see black and white images much more clearly. If you do not have multiple copies you might like to print out images to give to parents to show their baby as you read the story aloud.

You may also like to let parents and families know that babies develop favourite books, songs and activities. So if they like this book or seem particularly attentive to a song or chant then it is great to repeat it as often as baby will pay attention. This repetition gives baby time to listen, watch and learn so that soon they can begin to try these sounds or actions themselves. It's also good to keep this little book close by, clipped on a pram or high chair, so they can explore it whenever they want.

During Reading

Model how to be an engaging reader, by talking about what you can see together and pointing out things as you look at each page. Allow time to look closely at the images. Sing songs slowly and with clarity. You may want to display the words in a larger format for the participants to see them.

This is a short book consisting of songs and rhymes so you could use it in a variety of ways. Read it all the way through, or just pick out a few favourites. If baby is very interested then try reading, or singing it again!

After Reading

Have a selection of board books available and invite parents to borrow them after the story time session. Encourage them to incorporate books into their daily routine at home and when they are out and about. A couple of minutes here and there soon adds up to helps build a strong foundation for children's language development.

You could also show them some other ways of engaging with books such as laying them out on the floor or a blanket for tummy time, using buggy books to clip onto a pram or car seat, and using board books (or wipeable books) if baby is old enough to be sitting in a high chair.

Extension Ideas

Children learn from watching and copying, have some fun together bringing songs to life by:

- Singing Row, Row, Row your boat at bath time, use a little boat to bring the song to life
- Singing One Two Three Four Five song at mat time, use toys or count on fingers and toes
- Borrow farm toys from the toy library and sing the Baa, Baa, Blacksheep or Old McDonald songs and practice all the animal noises with gusto!

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- My Food Shapes by Fiona Bowden
- Baby's Very First Buggy Book Outdoors by Fiona Watt Illustrated by Stella Baggott
- Green Sheep Buggy Book by Mem Fox and Illustrated by Judy Horacek

An Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (*Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*) **or** your preferred choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action)

Say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye

To all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!