



# Parent Tips

ready at five

## Making Music

Music is about singing, listening, talking about what is heard, discovering sound, and creating musical sounds. It is important to expose your child to music. Music can be experienced anywhere and anytime! You can:

### INFANT:

- Sing to your baby. Sing songs like, "Rock a Bye Baby" or "Hush Little Baby." Or, put your favorite nursery rhyme to music. If you don't know all the words, make them up! You can do this even before your baby is born! Your baby will hear you. As your child gets older, have him sing the words with you.
- Turn off the television and turn on the stereo, radio, or iPod! Play music for your baby. Try slow, restful music during your bedtime routine to sooth and calm your child, or an upbeat, fast-tempo tune during playtime.

### TODDLER:

- Sing all the time. Sing in the car, on a walk, or when riding the bus. Sing when cooking dinner or during playtime. For example, after stacking a tower of blocks, knock it down as you sing "London Bridge" or while baking, sing "Patty Cake." Try singing songs that promote and encourage movement: "Hokey Pokey," "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes," "I'm a Little Teapot," or "Five Little Ducks," moving your body based on the lyrics.
- Make musical instruments. For example, make a drum from an empty oatmeal container! Make a kazoo by placing wax paper on the end of a toilet paper tube. Or, make a rain stick by placing rice in a paper towel tube and covering each end with duct tape. Let your child play the instruments and put on a concert for you.

### PRESCHOOLERS:

- Sing with your child. Teach him well-known children's songs, such as the "ABCs," "Happy Birthday," "Old MacDonald," or "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." As he gets older, ask him to sing a familiar song to you.
- Have your child make up his own songs. Ask her to create music to go with her mood. You might say, "Can you play or sing me a silly song?"
- For a special treat, take your child to live musical performance. Museums, libraries, the local high school, and bookstores often host free performances. Outdoor concerts are also a good bet for preschoolers because they can dance and move around without disturbing anyone.

## Book Suggestion

*Tubby the Tuba* by Paul Tripp and Henry Cole  
*Animal Orchestra* by Ilo Orleans and Tibor Gergely