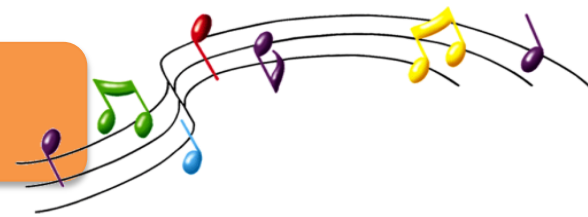


Song Time



Music and singing can be a really powerful way of supporting children with their communication. It can help make learning language fun and help to change a child's mood by distracting and calming them. Songs can be used all through the day to support routines and share interaction. You don't have to have a good voice for your child to enjoy hearing you sing!

Music can be used to start and an interaction and keep it going. Your child will learn to recognise songs and anticipate what comes next. They may even start to take a turn or indicate that they want to hear the song again.

Sing songs that go with what your child is interested in and tune into their mood. Slow calming songs when they are upset and fast energetic songs when they are happy.



Start singing a familiar song, eg. 'Twinkle twinkle'. At different points in the song slow down and pause. This will let them know it is their turn to join in'. See how your child responds, they may wriggle, smile, vocalise or try to say the word. If they do not take a turn say it for them and carry on. '*Twinkle twinkle little.....star*' When your child is comfortable doing this try making deliberate errors in the song and see if your child can spot them!



Songs can be used to teach new words eg. *Heads, shoulders, knees and toes* is good for learning body parts.

Remember short songs are best to start with especially those where words are repeated. Stress the important words in the song and don't go too fast. Slowing down you will give your child a chance to focus on the words.

Try making up your own songs for your child by choosing a familiar tune and changing the words. These songs can be used as part of a routine when carrying out tasks especially if they are tasks your child is reluctant to join in with eg. Being fastened into the car seat or putting their coat on.

