

## Learning on the Go: Literacy Tips for Young Children

Music is truly the universal language--and research has shown that children benefit in many ways from music. Music gives children practice with listening and introduces them to rhyming and new vocabulary. It also promotes memory skills and can help children develop motor skills through dancing or hand motions.

Singing can be done at anytime in any place with any age child. Don't worry about whether you have a good voice or can carry a tune—children don't care! They just enjoy the rhythm and the fun interaction with you. You can sing to your baby while you change her diaper. You and your child can sing along to children's music tapes or cds in the car. Waiting time can be made easier by singing a song together with hand motions (such as Itsy, Bitsy Spider). While you are trying to get dinner on the table, put on a cd and encourage your child to sing and dance, while you join in from the kitchen. Songs can also make children more willing to do chores, such as picking up toys. You can end the day with a lullaby for your baby or singing together while you look at illustrated songbooks. Music is a great way to have fun together while your child learns!