

Using songs and rhymes to support communication



Songs and rhymes are a great way to support communication development!

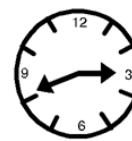


Singing songs can encourage skills in listening, attention and anticipation- children start to recognise what comes next when we repeat songs and it's such a great opportunity for them to hear new words repeated over and over again.



At school, lots of classes has a song box which is filled with different objects of reference. This means an object associated with each song can be brought out and explored by the children as the song is being sung. An example of this could be a light toy to represent Twinkle Twinkle Little Star or a clock to represent Hickory Dickory Dock.

Using objects during songs can help to develop attention and listening skills- why not have a go at making your own song box for at home?



Things that can help:

- Sing **slowly** and **exaggerate your voice** so that children can hear the all words.
- Try to **minimise distractions** such as TV or radio.
- Use **actions** or **signs** to create interest when singing for example- Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes
- **Miss out the last word** of a song/verse and give time for children to respond eg. "Old McDon-ald had a..."
- Remember **responses look different** for every child! A child may respond to singing by giving eye contact, stilling, verbalising or moving their body.
- Give **processing time**! Some children need up to a minute to register you've interacted with them- it can feel unnatural, but waiting gives your child time to process and respond.