

## WHEN TO DO MUSIC WITH CHILDREN

Music can be a part of your daily routine in your home or classroom. It doesn't matter if you think you can't sing or are tone deaf. Sing anyway! Babies and young children will still learn the melody and enjoy the rhythm and rhyme of the songs you sing. The more enthusiastic you are with your singing, the more they will enjoy it.

Think of simple tunes that you know such as "Row, row, row your boat" and change the words to describe what you are doing. For example, "Wash, wash, wash, your hands/ Each and every day/ Scrubbing, rubbing, scrubbing rubbing/ Chasing dirt away." Use these songs to brighten up daily routines such as washing hands, taking a bath, and brushing teeth.



Sing while you are changing the baby's diapers, giving him a bath, or feeding him cereal. Make up something silly like, "This is the way we clean the baby, clean the baby, clean the baby, early in the morning." Your baby won't understand the words yet, but will enjoy the melody of the song, and will respond to your voice.

Music in the classroom can help smooth transitions such as cleaning up, lining up to go outside, washing hands, and getting ready for a nap. Example: sing to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, "Now its time to pickup up toys, pick up toys, pick-up toys. Now it's time to pickup toys to keep our classroom clean." Even if you use the same melody over in different ways, children will respond to your singing and learn the melody even faster!