



Nine ways to share music with your child

1. **Sing your child's favorite songs.** There are some songs your child just has to hear again, and again... and again. Indulge your child's craving for repetition. It's really a need, and when your child is done learning from this particular song, they'll be ready to move on. I promise!
2. **Sing songs from your own childhood.** If you loved the songs from Romper Room, Sesame Street, or Barney (depending on your generation), there's a good chance your child will love them too. This is your chance to re-visit your own early years, while enjoying your child's.
3. **Start early.** Don't wait until your child can sing before exposing your child to music. You started talking to your baby as soon as he or she was born, didn't you? Babies are born with musical aptitude, and all they need is exposure to start "singing" happily - as early as 3-4 months!
4. **Lousy voice? Sing anyway!** Your child is not a music critic and won't be harmed if you sing out of tune. Your child WILL thrive on your singing because it comes from you, and because you love your child. And as a former non-singer, I can tell you that singing voices improve the more they're used.
5. **(your child's name here...)** Children love to hear their own names in a song or story. It makes them feel special, and loved. Any time you can, play with the words to a song to make it about your own child. Insert your own child's name into "Mary had a little lamb," and suddenly the song belongs to your child.
6. **Sing back to your child.** When you repeat your child's musical babbling, you encourage your child to experiment some more. This technique is called "mirroring", and it's what parents do naturally as children learn to talk. You can do the same things with your child's musical explorations.
7. **Sing through moments of the day.** You don't have to set aside a block of time to "be musical" with your child. You can take any song you like, and change the words to suit the moment. You can sing about setting the table, or taking a bath, or...

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Heartland Music Together

www.HeartlandMusicTogether.com

(502) 491-3131

info@heartlandmusictogether.com

8. ... **Snuggle time.** What sweeter gift to give your child than a lullaby before he or she drifts off to dreamland! Your voice will help your child peacefully cross the bridge from waking to sleep. If you're only going to sing once in a day, this is the very best time to do it!

9. **Make a weekly ritual.** Join our music classes for musical fun for you and your child! Not only can you share the fun together in class, but you'll also get more songs to sing at home, with professionally recorded CDs. (Our CDs feature real musicians jamming on real instruments, so you can enjoy it too!) With each semester, you'll also get songbooks with even more ideas for having fun together through the week.

Happy singing!