



Creating Songs or Using Familiar Songs

A simple way to create new songs or to improvise songs during play is to add new lyrics to familiar children songs. Many Early Childhood songs are created this way and anyone can do it! You can also just sing the songs on la la, dee dee or add speech sounds that children are working on.

Some examples:

Skip To My Lou – Hello or Movement song

Hello to you and clap your hands (three times)

Hello to you today

Or

Clap , clap, clap your hands

Add stomp your feet, pat your knees, etc.

The Wheels On The Bus – Scarf or parachute song about leaves

The leaves in the trees blow up and down, up and down, up and down

The leaves on the trees blow up and down all day long

(blow side to side, fly round and round, come falling down)

Two Little Blackbirds – Song and Fingerplay about opposites

Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill

One named Jack and one name Jill (fast/slow, loud/soft)

Fly away Jack, fly away Jill (hands fly behind back)

Come back Jack, come back Jill

Row your Boat - Sticks – Tap Tap Tap Your Sticks

Tap tap tap your sticks

Gently down the stream

Merrily, merrily, merrily

Life is but a dream

Tap tap tap the floor

Pound, pound pound your sticks

Hammer hammer hammer your sticks

Roll roll roll your sticks

Stir stir stir the soup

Make make make and “X” (or a T or other letters or shapes)

Scrape scrape scrape your sticks

Tap tap tap your feet (gently)

Source: Connors, Abigail. (2004). *101 Rhythm Instrument Activities for Young Children*. Gryphon House: Beltsville, MD

Elephants Have Wrinkles – Halloween song

See the ghosts a floating, floating, floating

See the ghosts a floating, floating everywhere

(Bats flying, Witches laughing, Cats creeping or meowing, Pumpkins smiling/frowning)

Old MacDonald Had A Band – instrument playing

Old MacDonald Had A Band e-i-e-i-o

And in his band he had a _____

Twinkle Little Star –rest and relaxation song

Sing with and without words (la la, dee dee)