

# Musical interactions – songs & rhymes

Young children love hearing and joining in with songs and rhymes and any kind of musical interaction. As well as playing an important part in helping to develop their communication and language skills, they also support many other areas of your child's early development. Here are some ideas to try: *(Ask your Peep practitioner about any songs you are unfamiliar with)*

- Exploring sounds and experimenting with their voices:
  - **We're going on a bear hunt | Old Macdonald had a farm**
- Building the big muscles in their bodies, developing co-ordination and increasing their awareness of how their bodies move in space:
  - **Heads, shoulders, knees and toes | The hokey cokey**
- Strengthening and controlling the smaller muscles in their hands and fingers that they need to become writers:
  - **Tommy Thumb | Ten little fingers**
- Developing a sense of order and timing by being able to predict what is coming next in familiar songs and rhymes:
  - **Sleeping bunnies | Round and round the garden**
- Being expressive with their bodies and voices in response to songs that are loud, soft, slow or fast etc:
  - **Row, row (row slowly, then speed up... and don't forget to scream!)**
  - **Dingle dangle scarecrow**
- Learning about rhythmic patterns by hearing, moving and responding to patterns in songs, rhymes and music:
  - **Miss Polly had a dolly | Peter hammers**
- Building relationships with others and enjoying the comfort and security of hearing familiar songs, rhymes and music:
  - **Jelly on the plate | Twinkle twinkle little star**



**Children benefit from hearing, playing and joining in with all kinds of musical interactions – anytime, any place, anywhere!**