

Sing and Sign for Young Children: Supporting Language and Attachment with Sign, Songs and Play

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LEARNER OUTCOMES OF THIS PRESENTATION:

1. Define joint attention and its importance for early language.

The shared focus of two individuals on an object. One individual alerts another to an object by means of eye-gazing, pointing, or other verbal or non-verbal indications.

Important for the development of:

- Language comprehension
- Oral language production
- Word learning
- Meeting child's needs

2. Explain the difference between ASL signs, invented signs and sign approximations.

American Sign Language (ASL): "A complete, complex language that employs signs made by moving the hands combined with facial expressions and postures of the body" (NIDCD)

Invented signs: Gesture a young child creates and consistently uses to communicate

Sign approximations: Child's best try at imitating a signed word that is modeled for them

3. List the three steps children master to sign to communicate.

1. Imitation
2. Understanding
3. Expression

4. Describe the benefits of singing AND signing for child development.

1. Supports emotional regulation
2. Enhances receptive and oral language
3. Strengthens attachment between child and caring adult
4. Reinforces imitation skills
5. Integrates listening, motor skills, language, problem solving, spatial-temporal experience, and literacy
6. Enriches vocabulary
7. Give children a variety of tools to retell and recall stories.
8. Supports participation for all children: non-verbal, deaf or HH, dual language learners

How to add sign to your day

- Add key signs for routines and transitions
- Add signs for preferred interests of children
- Add a few signs as you read your favorite books and signs
- Sign feeling words to reinforce emotional literacy
- Joyfully connect through sign, song, books, and play!

ONLINE RESOURCES

Free song. "Hickory Dickory Dock." Anne M. Watson. www.singplaylove.tools/squeak

Free song. "Frog in the Meadow." Anne M. Watson. <https://youtu.be/-zE0vZO2Sb0>

Free self-calming tool kit. www.singplaylove.com

ASL video dictionary. Signing Savvy. <https://www.signingsavvy.com/>

Video. "The Baby Brain" (2020) Patricia K. Kuhl. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErPPXfsY6a8&t=426s>

Video. "The Cell Phone Experiment: Consequences of Distracted Parenting." (2019) Michelle Kelly and Anne Watson. <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/339213901>

BOOKS

Baby Sing & Sign by Anne Meeker Miller (2007)

Toddler Sing & Sign by Anne Meeker Miller (2007)

Mealtime and Bedtime Sing & Sign by Anne Meeker Miller (2008)

Sing and Sign for Young Children: A Guide for Early Childhood Professionals by Anne Meeker Watson

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CITATIONS

Lucca, K., & Wilbourn, M. P. (2019). The what and the how: Information-seeking pointing gestures facilitate learning labels and functions. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 178, 417–436.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2018.08.003>

The Man Who Took His Life as a Dance. (2013, April 12). *The New York Times*.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/14/arts/dance/bill-t-jones-and-oliver-sacks-connect-at-live-arts.html#:~:text=Much%20more%20of%20the%20brain> (Oliver Sachs quote)

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- ✓ www.facebook.com/singplaylove
- ✓ www.instagram.com/mysingplaylove
- ✓ www.youtube.com/singplaylove

SONGS	CORRELATED PICTURE BOOKS	SING.PLAY.LOVE.
Hickory Dickory Dock	<i>Hickory Dickory Dock</i> (Baker)	www.singplaylove.tools/squeak
Mommy Go 'Round the Sun	<i>Sunrise, Moonrise</i> (Thompson)	SING & SIGN book
Frog in the Meadow	<i>Jump, Frog, Jump!</i> (Kalan)	www.youtube.com/singplaylove
John the Rabbit	<i>John the Rabbit</i> (Watson) <i>One Brown Bunny</i> (Bauer)	"I Love Learning" Educator Kit/ Single Book Kit
Saturday Morning	<i>First 100 Words</i> (Priddy Books)	SING & SIGN book
I Take the Music with Me	<i>I Take the Music with Me</i> (Watson) <i>We All Sing with the Same Voice</i> (Miller and Greene)	SING & SIGN book/Early Learning Educator Kit/Single Book Kit

***BOLDED SONG TITLES** available in **SING.PLAY.LOVE.** picture book format.