



# Learning Through Music is Fun



Songs and rhymes are an important part of childhood and are fun to say or sing together. They provide an endless source of language development - vital to becoming an effective learner and paving the way to making a good start with all areas of learning.

Children love rhyme, rhythm and repetition and will enjoy joining in and doing actions with you. A child's phonological awareness (sounds heard in words), is developed through rhyme, e.g. **'Fox in a Box'**(on CD), and alliteration (words beginning with the same sound) e.g. **Baa, Baa, Black Sheep** (on CD). This is a key skill for reading and writing.

Language development supports all future learning and the rhymes and songs learned in childhood have a vital role to play. Action songs and finger rhymes are good for developing:

- Awareness of different sounds which enable children to discriminate between the sounds which go in to building words. E.g. **Old MacDonald**.
- Attention, concentration and a sense of order as children need to look, listen carefully, and remember to say and match the appropriate action to the words. E.g. **'head, shoulders, knees and toes', 'I'm a little teapot'**. (on CD).
- Finger control and dexterity needed to hold and control mark making implements E.g. **'Open, shut them'**(on CD), **'Tommy Thumb, Tommy Thumb, where are you?'**
- A sense of rhythm and steady beat. E.g. Try marching and/or clapping to **Grand Old Duke of York**.
- Feeling good about themselves and friendships. Children learn and develop through the relationships they make with others. E.g. **'Hello song'** or **'Rita's song'**.
- Awareness of number names, order and the concepts of more and less. E.g. **Once I caught a fish alive'** and **'Five Furry Monkeys'**(on CD).
- Exploring the world around them by singing about familiar and new experiences. E.g. **'Put your finger on your nose'**.

**Remember!** Young children don't care whether anyone can sing in tune! It's enthusiasm that matters.

So sing songs and rhymes everyday and ..... **Have Fun!**

