

Read, sing, talk, write, and play when engaging with your young child. Use the books and toys in this kit, along with the activities below, to support the development of early literacy skills and instill a love of reading.

## Read

Read the books in this kit with your child. Take time to look at and talk about the pictures.

Ask your child questions about what is happening in the story and what they think may happen next.

Talk about the story. Help your child relate it to their own experiences.

Encourage your child to participate: filling in rhymes, chanting refrains, making sounds, and acting out parts of the story. Use the microphone to make it extra exciting!

Each of the books in this kit have a rhythm when read aloud. Encourage your child to dance, clap, tap, or play an instrument to the beat.

## Sing

Sing or play some tunes while playing the instruments to the beat.

Sing karaoke with your favorite songs using the microphone.

### **If You're Happy and You Know It Play Your Instrument**

If you're happy and you know it play your instrument  
If you're happy and you know it play your instrument  
If you're happy and you know it and you really want to show it  
If you're happy and you know it play your instrument

If you're happy and you know it . . .  
Play up high/down low  
Play them softly/loudly  
Play them quickly/slowly

### **Old MacDonald Had a Band**

Old Macdonald had a band, E I E I O  
And in this band he had some shakers, E I E I O  
With a shake, shake here and a shake, shake there  
Here a shake, there a shake, everywhere a shake, shake  
Old MacDonald had a band, E I E I O

Change for different instruments: bells – jingle, clip-claps – clap, drum - tap

## Talk

Use the microphone to model having a conversation. With the microphone, ask your child questions such as, "What are you doing?" or "How was your day?" Turn the microphone to your child and wait for a few seconds for them to respond with an answer or maybe just a babble or gesture. Keep the conversation going with phrases such as "And then what happened?" or "Wow! Tell me more." Then let your child lead the conversation.

After reading the books in this kit, let your child use the microphone to retell the stories in their own words. Or have them tell a story that they make up on their own or with you.

Using the instruments, tap out syllables as you talk. You can use your family's names, toys and other things around the house, things you see outside, etc.

Practice words that may be difficult for your child by first speaking them into the microphone, then letting them repeat after you into the microphone.



# Storytime Kit: Music

## Write

Make up a silly song together with your child. Help them write down the words or write down the words yourself and have them draw a picture to go with it.

Use recycled materials from your home (empty tissue boxes, oatmeal containers, coffee cans, etc.) to make your own drum or other instrument. Cover it with paper or newsprint and let your child decorate it with crayons or markers.

## Play

Pretend you're in a marching band. Designate a band leader who can lead the group with the microphone. Everyone else plays instruments and marches in a parade through the house. Let the band leader call out different ways to march and play the instruments. Take turns being band leader.

Have a family dance party! Make up silly ways of dancing, play the instruments while dancing, or play freeze dance and stop the music periodically for everyone to freeze.

This tip sheet stays with the kit. For a copy of your own, visit [dtdl.org/littlethings](http://dtdl.org/littlethings). For more books, songs, rhymes, and activity ideas to share with your child, visit [dtdl.org/storytimes](http://dtdl.org/storytimes).