

Singing helps promote literacy! When you sing, your language slows down and allows kids to hear each sound inside a word or sentence. Repetition helps young learners develop and strengthen neural pathways in their brains.

Hello/Goodbye Songs

- Use the same hello and goodbye songs during every program in this series. Many hello songs have a corresponding goodbye song.
- Choose a hello song that is active and encourages kids to move their bodies. This will help them stretch and move before having to sit still for the story afterwards.

Song Breaks

- Use song breaks between books to help kids re-center and focus. Song breaks could consist of one to three songs, depending on how active your group is.
- Repeat songs often. Remember that repetition is important for brain development and school readiness.
- Use manipulatives sparingly. Shaker eggs, scarves, rhythm sticks, and bells are great tools to use in storytime, but they are not required for every single song break. Bringing out a manipulative for every song break may cause sensory overload and induce anxiety for children. If using a manipulative, find a creative way to help kids relinquish their device after the song is over. Have kids sing goodbye to the object or try calling out specific colors to put away in order.
- Use a mix of acapella, rhymes, and musical accompaniment. If using songs with musical instruments, try to mix in a few acoustic versions versus electric sounds. Using a mix of different songs can help your program be more inclusive, especially for children with sensory challenges.
- Nervous about singing acapella? Use your puppet! Have your sidekick take the lead—and the blame if they are really off-key! Even let the kids in on the secret. “Joey, the turtle, is really nervous about singing out loud in front of you. Do you ever get nervous or scared about doing something new? Can you help sing with him so he’s not doing it alone?”

Songs

Find all these songs on YouTube by clicking on the links below.

Hello/Goodbye

- “Shake Your Sillies Out” by The Learning Station
- “It Is Time to Say Goodbye” by Dr. Jean
- “Hello Song/Goodbye Song” by Miss Linky
- “Hello, Hello!” by Super Simple Songs
- “How Do We Say Hello?” by The Kiboomers
- “Goodbye to You!” by ELF Learning
- “Goodbye Song” by The Learning Station

Movement

- “Banana, Banana, Meatball” by Blazer Fresh
- “Icky, Sticky Bubblegum” by David Landau
- “The Goldfish” by The Laurie Berkner Band
- “Get Funky” by The Learning Station
- “Tooty Ta” by Dr. Jean
- “Wiggle Dance” by Danny Go!
- “The Dance Freeze Song” by Scratch Garden
- “Monster Moves” by Koo Koo

Finger Plays

- “Where is Thumbkin?” by The Kiboomer
- “Bubble, Bubble, Pop!” by Nadine Ghawi
- “Open, Shut Them” by Alina Celeste
- “Baby Bumblebee” by Ms. Rachel
- “Clap Your Hands” by The Kiboomers
- “There Was a Little Turtle” by The Kiboomers

Manipulatives

- “Brush Your Teeth” by Finny the Shark (shaker eggs)
- “Popcorn Kernels” by Music in Unison (scarves)
- “Up, Down, and Around and Around” by Julie Wylie (scarves)
- “Beanbag Bop” by Jack Hartman (bean bags)
- “Let’s Make a Pie” by Makin’ Music (rhythm sticks)