

The Power of Rhymes **and Songs**

- **Language Development**
 - The strong rhythm of rhymes helps babies absorb the pattern of language. Babies are introduced to rich vocabulary.
 - Singing naturally slows down words, and makes it easier for babies to hear the patterns and rhythm of language.
- **Memory Skills**
 - The repetition of songs develops young toddler's memory skill as they sing along.
- **Motor Skills**
 - Body movements like rowing, bouncing, dancing, and clapping help babies develop fine motor skills.



Nursery Rhymes can be played anywhere, anytime: in a grocery store line, doctor's office, or changing table.



No expensive toys required!
Babies learn best through playful interactions with their caregivers.



Nursery Rhymes & Puppets

When families hold, rock, and touch their babies as they say rhymes and sing songs, the close physical contact establishes an emotional bond

Language Development

- By two months old, infants can tell the difference between languages with different stress patterns, such as English and Japanese (Stamm, 2008).
- Babies tune their neurons to process only those sounds of speech (phonemes) that are present in their native language (Stamm, 2008).
- Babies' brains pick up the patterns in language to tell where word boundaries are. Between six and twelve months of age they are able to hear syllables. After word boundaries become apparent, babies will hear distinct words: Do/you/want/your/bottle?



Rhyme and Song Play Encourage:

Bonding

Memorization

Vocabulary Development

Language Development

Motor Development



Language Development

- With repetition, books and songs will assist children with language development. By six months, a baby can imitate many of the sounds spoken around him.
- Speaking in a singsong way, or *parentese*, provides babies with the tone and pitch their brains use to hear words in any language.
- Words in songs are said with enunciation and higher pitch. Infants hear best those sounds that are slower in speed, higher in frequency, clear, and distinct (Stamm, 2008).

Using puppets with your child will give her additional practice in language learning and the art of communication.