



## ★ Early Years Home Learning ★

### Communication and Language

### Song Box



This is best:



Indoors or Outdoors

#### Materials

You may need:

- A cardboard box (like a shoe box)
- Pens, paper, glitter, paint etc. for decorating
- Toys/items from around house

**The basic idea:** To create a song box using items around the house as props! Singing songs can help to develop children's communication and language skills from a very young age. Using a song box, especially with younger children, allows them to make choices with or without words and develops the skills to communicate through songs and rhymes.

#### Tips to support your child:

- You will need a box (a shoe box is the perfect size)
- Allow your child to decorate the box with paint, glitter, sequins, paper, pens etc. This will give him or her ownership that it is 'their' song box.
- Use toys/items that you have around your house that match with familiar nursery rhymes/songs (e.g. toy spider, a star, little monkeys etc.). If you can't find any items, you could draw the pictures instead.
- Encourage your child to join in when using the song box. Let them choose the item/drawing from the box. Allow your child to copy the actions or sing the words to the song/rhyme.
- Remember to have fun! Children enjoy singing familiar songs and rhymes.
- Revisit this experience and repeat or add new songs/rhymes over the days/weeks! Helping your child to think and remember are important skills for learning.

#### How this benefits your child:

- Supporting a child's communication and language skills from an early stage is important to their development. Each child develops at their own pace, but it is important to give them opportunities to encourage these skills as often as possible.
- Children enjoy adult/child interaction and a song box is a great way to develop new skills and have fun together.
- If you explore the song box with wider family, this will give your child the chance to develop social cues and encourage turn taking skills.

#### Make this simpler...

If your child is unsure of the words, you could sing it to them a few times or you could find a video of the song or rhyme on YouTube and watch it together. It may help your child to understand the song or rhyme better if they can see it visually.

#### Make this more challenging...

- You could get your child to fill in the missing word of a rhyme or song.
- Ask your child to identify any rhyming words in the rhyme or song.
- Why not teach your child some songs you may remember from when you were wee?

"The fun is in the journey,  
not the end result!"



#### Top tip from our Speech and Language Therapy Partners:

**Being face to face with your child helps them develop their communication skills.** When you sing or recite rhymes **stress** words that rhyme. This will help your child pick up on sounds that are the same, eg "Twinkle Twinkle little **star**. How I wonder what you **are**."

