

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BELOIT BLOG

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“We are in the middle of a global pandemic, but I want to get my little one ready for school. I usually would take my kiddo to the library or attend a storytime, but my older kids are in distance learning, my family members are in quarantine, and I am juggling work on top of that. What do I do? What app can I get? Or how can I help my little one with learning?”

Sound like a conversation you have had with yourself or with a friend or family member?

Family is a child’s first and most and most important teacher. There are little things you can do every day to build those brilliant brains, even in a pandemic.

Let’s Sing:

Take a quick five minutes to sing songs or rhymes with meaningful actions. Some fun singalongs include *Five Little Piggies*; *Baby Shark*; *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*; *I’m a Little Teapot*; or *Itsy Bitsy Spider*.

Get those fingers working with shark bites, acting like you are calling the doctor, or creating a moving spider. When you sing to your child and interact with actions, you connect words with actions and help your child grow their vocabulary.

Take old songs and make news songs – Convert *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed* to *Five Little Dinosaurs Jumping on the Bed* or *Five Little Lions Jumping on the Bed*. Convert *I’m a Little Teapot* to *I’m a Little Airplane*. This allows your child to use familiar knowledge and make and create connections to new learning. I personally love singing *I’m a Little Airplane* more than *I’m a Little Teapot*. Another fun song with lots of action is *The Wheels on the Bus*.

Sing songs about numbers and everyday things. Repetitive counting songs help to develop your child’s number fluency. Days of the week and seasons of the year songs help build your child’s vocabulary skills. Preschool songs are simple, fun and straightforward. Make-up your own words to a song about your family, favorite foods, whatever you and your child like to do together. You can sing while you clean-up toys, are cooking a meal, or organizing your family room.

Learn new songs from Super Simple Songs, Singing Walrus, or Pink Fong. As a former 7th-grade language arts teacher, I had NO idea about the different nursery rhymes that I could sing to my child. You can google nursery rhymes and find some excellent websites and engaging songs.

Let's Dance:

I encourage you to dance and sing like nobody is watching. Kick those legs & wave those arms. Sing as loud as you can and as silly as you can. These are the memories that your kids will remember during the pandemic. Your words will give your little one support and assurance during this challenging time and you will build their brilliant brain for a successful start to school.

#YouGotThis #BrilliantBrainsBeginAtHome